

All a board...
The Community Center
gets new board members and new money.
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Who puts the gold
into the Golden Gate
Business Alliance?
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Queerly Quazy
Robert Julian on the last 12
bizarre and banal months.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 1 • 1 January 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years



Despite dire predictions, more people turned out for the 1997 AIDS Walk than ever before.

A year in the life of SFAF

by Cynthia Laird

If for no other reason, the annual budget of more than \$16 million at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) and the annual salary of its executive director – last reported at \$148,794 for fiscal year 1995-96 – make it the one of the larger AIDS service organizations (ASO) in the country.

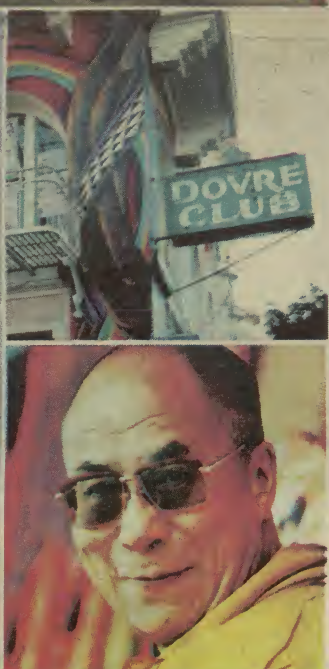
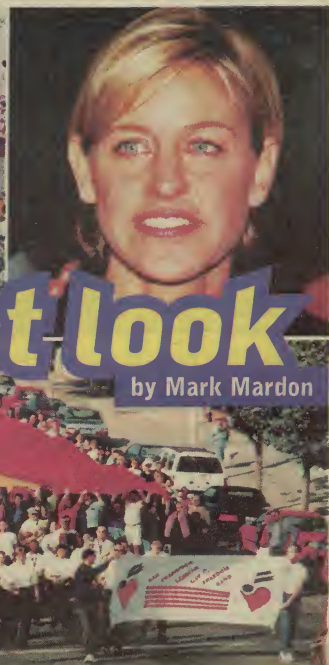
Some wonder if it is too large. One year ago this week, the *Bay Area Reporter* asked in a front-page story, "Is it time for the SF AIDS Foundation to downsize?" That did not come to pass in the 12 months that followed. The organization continued to provide services to thousands of San Francisco clients, and raised substantial amounts of money through private contributions to supplement federal and state grants.

And although the voices of dissent increased over the last year – particularly after the *B.A.R.* published accounts of SFAF's much-touted client focus groups, and the subsequent suspension of services for a person living

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1997: one last look

by Mark Mardon

Like a thoroughbred bolting out of the starting gate, 1997 took off in a burst of queer energy. In the cultural arena, a group of gay and lesbian Buddhists sought and were granted a meeting with the Dalai Lama, who promised to clarify Tibetan Buddhist views on homosexuality; a last-minute debate broke out when preservationists suddenly decided they wanted to save a dilapidated Victorian scheduled to be demolished to make room for a new Gay Community Center; the Supreme Court overturned the Communications Decency Act, which unconstitutionally restricted information about sex from being disseminated via the Internet; gay civil-libertarians raised a furor over city regulations governing private sex clubs; and the queer community worked itself up into a lather over the display of penises in store

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Some events of 1997, clockwise from top left: Mayor Willie Brown congratulated lesbian Supervisor and Treasurer-Elect Susan Leal on Election Night; Castro and 18th overflowed with flowers for the late Diana, Princess of Wales; Ellen DeGeneres became the two most famous gay people on television; the 20th anniversary of Harvey Milk's first election was commemorated by raising a giant flag in his namesake plaza on Market and Castro; the Dove Club lost its bid to stay in the Women's Building; the Dalai Lama came to town and met with gays and lesbians; supporters rallied in support of medical marijuana; former psychiatrist Dean Freeman was incarcerated for the attempted murder of a patient (and lover); Judge Kay Tsenin was sworn into office; and the Fallon Building at Market and Octavia was named to house the Gay Community Center, but now faces an uncertain future.

Clockwise from top left: Cynthia Laird, Rick Garner, H. Reed Barr, Darlene/PhotoGraphics, Jane Philomena Cleland, San Francisco Police Department, Jane Philomena Cleland, Rick Garner, Cynthia Laird


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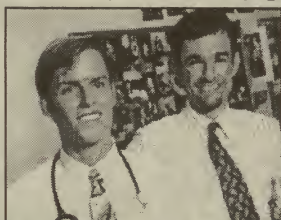
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Community center adds three board members

by Cynthia Laird

Three new members have been named to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project board of directors; introduced at the CCP board's December 17 meeting, the new members are Darwin Dayan, Hollis Hardin, and Frances "Franco" Stevens.

"These new board members will help the community center fulfill its need to represent the diversity of our entire community while also adding skills and experience we'll need to make this dream a reality," said Brenda Barnette, CCP board president.

Dayan is the manager of media resources for a nonprofit labor relations firm in San Francisco. He's co-chair of the board of directors of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS, the only Filipino-specific AIDS organization in the country. Dayan also served as co-chair of the board of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), and on the Brothers campaign of the Asian

Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

"I think it's very exciting and important, so I can make an effort to help with fundraising and the other decisions," Dayan told the B.A.R., adding that he sees his prior work with community organizations as an asset.

Hardin has more than 30 years of experience as a certified public accountant. He is a partner with the Eckhoff Accountancy Corporation. Previously, Hardin served on the Marin Symphony's board of directors.

Hardin and Dayan both agreed they have a lot to learn about the community center project and have been provided with lots of information since joining the board less than a month ago.

"The community center certainly has been embroiled in controversy," said Hardin, referring to the Fallon Building issue that has generated extensive community debate since last September. "I'm trying to reserve my opinion on that issue until I learn more details, but I'm very excited and I have been looking for a project to

get involved in. This is very worthwhile."

He hopes his accounting background will also benefit the project. "I look at things from a numerical standpoint," Hardin said.

Stevens is the founder, publisher, and editor of *Curve*, one of the nation's best-selling lesbian magazines. She is also president of the board of Outspoken Enterprises, a producer of lesbian entertainment products and services. She hosts four monthly radio programs on issues of concern to lesbians and was recently selected for Leadership California, a statewide leadership enhancement program for women.

The addition of Dayan, Hardin, and Stevens brings the CCP's board to 20 members; under the group's bylaws, the board can have a maximum of 25 people. ▼

For information about the Community Center Project, check out their website at www.sfgaycenter.org

Community center board announces several financial donations

by Cynthia Laird

The Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights Foundation (BAPHR) has announced that the first \$10,000 of a pledged \$50,000 award has been sent to the San Francisco Community Center Project (CCP). The foundation's board of directors had previously approved the grant, said Steven G. Horowitz, BAPHR co-chair.

CCP board members said they received BAPHR's check last month and thanked the foundation for its "extraordinary commitment to and support of our project." The grant will be paid over five years and will go towards the CCP's \$3.5 million capital campaign to build the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center.

In addition to the BAPHR Foundation grant, the Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) has pledged to raise \$100,000 from direct solicitation of their membership and an additional \$50,000 contribution from their 10th anniversary celebration that will take place in April, CCP board members said.

At the CCP's Founders' Dinner in November, American Express announced it will donate \$100,000 to the planned center. Also, board member Jody Cole,

who issued her own \$50,000 challenge grant if 50 new women made commitments of \$1,000 or more by the end of November, will be parting with her money. Cole, a co-chair of the capital campaign, got well over the required 50 women needed to meet

her challenge. ▼

To get involved with the Community Center Project, check out the website at www.sfgaycenter.org, or call (415) 437-2257.

Clarification

The *Bay Area Reporter* would like to clarify a news article by Dennis Conkin published December 4, 1997, entitled, "Gabbert Trial Postponed Until April."

The article stated that "[Sean] Sebring was arrested after stalking [James] Gabbert and trying to extort cash from him. [Sebring] later apologized and retracted the allegations and was given probation for the crimes."

For clarification, Sebring was arrested on an October 4, 1994 warrant issued by the District Attorney's office and sought by then-Assistant District Attorney Bill Fazio. Although Sebring was charged with three felony violations of the California state penal code — Section 524: extortion; Section 422: threats; and Section 646.9: stalking — he eventually pleaded guilty on December 9, 1994 only to a misdemeanor count of making threats against Gabbert, the owner of KOFY-TV.

For the record, Sebring has never confessed or ever said that he stalked or tried to extort cash from Gabbert. In fact, Sebring states that he never stalked or tried to extort cash from Gabbert. His efforts to have the 1994 misdemeanor conviction set aside are currently in the state appellate process.

The allegations for which Sebring apologized and retracted were accusations related to an alleged incident aboard Gabbert's yacht, in which he claimed that his drink was drugged and that Gabbert attempted to rape him.

The *Bay Area Reporter* regrets the error. ▼

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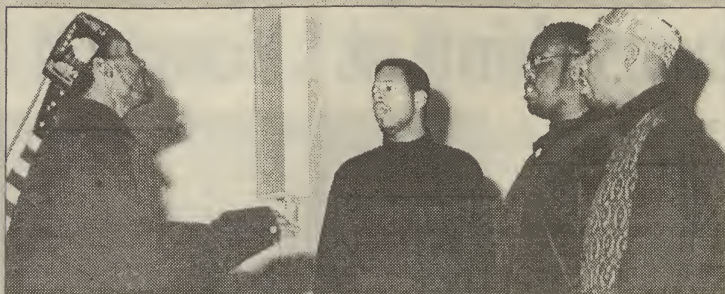
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Tongues untied



New Village Choir members David Williams, Paul Harris, John Ward, and Christopher Smith sing out harmoniously at the first Winterfest celebration of Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgendered African Americans (GLBTAA) at the MCC/SF on Friday, Dec. 26. Joan Jett Blakk, Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, Reginald Camer, and Rebecca Weens also performed. Next up: On Friday, Jan. 16, there'll be a reading of Rebecca Weens' play, *Certain Type of Misunderstanding*.

Deadline is January 9 for Emperor and Empress nominations

by Cynthia Laird

The Imperial Court of San Francisco announces the beginning of the time-honored tradition of the election of the Emperor and Empress of San Francisco. Applications for each title are now available; the deadline for nominations is next Friday, January 9, when forms must be at the Polk Gulch Saloon by 9 p.m. This year marks the 33rd annual election of the monarchs.

After the deadline, the Imperial Council will convene a review board for the potential candidates on Monday, January 12, followed by the Gala Presentation of Candidates on Saturday, January 17 at

the Oak Street Ballroom (Oak and Van Ness). This festive event will also feature the fifth and 15th anniversary walks of Emperor David Nyberg and Empress Connie, respectively.

The campaign continues for four weeks, and will include all-candidate parties at Marlena's, Daddy's, and the Powerhouse, culminating in voting day, Saturday, February 14 at three locations encompassing the Castro, Polk, and South of Market areas. Election results will be carefully monitored and held by an independent auditor until Coronation XXXIII weekend, February 20-22, when the reigning Emperor and Empress of San Francisco, Jacques Michaels and Veronda Lanai, will

step down, and the new monarchs will be crowned.

The Imperial Court of San Francisco has a long-standing reputation for pageantry, public involvement, and fundraising; organizers said that, as always, public participation is encouraged. ▼

Emperor and Empress applications are available from any Imperial Council member or at Marlena's, 488 Hayes Street; the Castro Station, 456 Castro Street; and the Polk Gulch Saloon, 1100 Polk Street.

Thank You

Dennis Conkin

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Leal becomes city's first lesbian treasurer Thursday

by Cynthia Laird

Supervisor Susan Leal will become San Francisco's first openly Latina lesbian treasurer when she is sworn into office on Thursday, January 8. The public is invited to the ceremony at City Hall.

Leal won the treasurer's race last November when she received 61,412 votes, almost 58 percent of the total cast, against two challengers. Joel Ventresca, a management assistant at San Francisco International Airport, garnered 34 percent of the votes; Lucrecia Bermúdez, a Latina lesbian immigrant rights organizer, trailed a distant third with eight percent of the ballots.

Since her victory, Leal has been finishing work on pending pro-

jects and attending her last meetings on various boards. She recently resigned one of several seats the city has on the Golden Gate Bridge District Board. On Monday, January 5, Leal will attend her last Board of Supervisors meeting, and on Wednesday, January 7, she will chair her last Finance Committee meeting.

As treasurer, Leal will manage the city's \$3 billion investment portfolio and oversee the tax collector. The post became open when outgoing Treasurer Mary Callanan announced her retirement; she has been the treasurer since 1980. ▼

Leal's swearing-in ceremony takes place at 12:30 p.m. in the board chambers, 4th floor at City Hall, 401 Van Ness.

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Gay men say they lost everything at I Found It!

by Dennis Conkin

Two gay men who won a \$6,800 San Francisco Superior Court judgment against the Market Street antique store "I Found It!" pledge to continue to pursue the owners of the dealership for the remainder of their property — or its claimed cash equivalent, which they say could total \$200,000.

Jim Eastwood and Philip Kachikas, who waived a jury trial and represented themselves before Judge James Robertson last November, also say that they've tried to interest the San Francisco District Attorney's office in their case — but despite repeated pleas for assistance, local prosecutors have turned a deaf ear to their plight.

The couple say that their difficulties began in December 1995, when they decided to move from San Francisco to Costa Rica to start a new life and pursue new business interests, including a habitat for several endangered species.

Together for 10 years, the couple told the *Bay Area Reporter* they met in the midst of the AIDS epidemic and wanted to move away from the rejection and the death and devastation that surrounded them. For that reason, they arranged to sell portions of their personal estate on consignment at I Found It! and have the remainder shipped to the Central American country.

Among their possessions were the household items of two of Kachikas's uncles who died of



Losers weepers: I Found It! at 1750 Market Street.

AIDS, as well as collectibles acquired by Eastwood, including an autograph collection of such notables as five U.S. presidents and scores of political and newsworthy figures and entertainers; and paintings, posters and etchings, sculptures, designer furniture, antiques and other collectible items, including an antique goat cart from the very early 1800s.

"We made the decision to liquidate our estate and simplify our lives," Kachikas said. "We decided on a move."

But the couple's dream failed to materialize, Kachikas said, because the estate sales allegedly lined up through the store never came through, or brought in much less cash than they were initially told.

"They projected \$3,000 for the first sale, but it came back at \$1,200. It became evident that we weren't going to have enough money," Kachikas told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

the store took the material to the location to sell as garage sale items.

Kachikas denied that he and Eastwood ever heard from the proprietors, and told police that after they had left the items at I Found It!, they since discovered at least a dozen items had been sold for an estimated \$15,000 that they had not been paid. Eastwood and Kachikas also told police that the owners had refused to let them in the store to remove any of the remaining articles.

Eastwood also asserts that he has an affidavit from a former I Found It! business partner stating that the store shredded the collection of autographs — many of them personalized and valued at \$30,000 — and also told them where other items belonging to the couple could be found, or how they were disposed of.

"They sold an antique red Chinese leather couch worth \$5,000 for \$200," Eastwood said.

He counters allegations made in court that the couple's inventory of estate items was actually a non-existent "wish list" of items never received by the antique store.

From wealth to poverty

Eastwood and Kachikas say that the experience transformed them from a couple with a one-time net worth of \$650,000 and dreams of a new life, to penury — replete with welfare payments and a two-week stint of homelessness, followed by life in a residential hotel.

Efforts to secure legal assistance were fruitless, and the couple sued on their own behalf. They say their recent minor court victory was just the first step, and that they will be meeting with police and district attorney officials over their predicament in early January.

Recently, Eastwood said, the couple walked by the antique store and saw a set of three botanical prints that they say belongs to them in the window.

"And a pot from my [their former home in] Cloverdale garden. It's a horrible feeling. It hurts," Eastwood said.

Representatives of I Found It! and attorney Kenneth Valinoti, who provided their legal defense, did not return *Bay Area Reporter* calls for comment. ▼

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Garage sale to hospital

The situation came to a head in April 1996, after repeated unsuccessful attempts to contact the store, when the men say they discovered some of their possessions for sale in a garage sale on Church Street.

A police report filed in the matter refers to a "mutual combat" incident that erupted at 19th and Church when Kachikas and Eastwood saw their consignment items being sold.

According to the report, when Kachikas saw someone buying several items that he alleges were his and tried to retrieve the material before the buyer left, a verbal dispute over the ownership of the property erupted into violence.

Kachikas told police that one I Found It! partner placed him in a headlock-choke hold, and the partner told police that Kachikas had punched him with a closed fist. Kachikas was taken to the hospital for further medical attention.

According to the police report, I Found It! co-owner Kevin Esposito and his partner alleged that the store had sent notices to the couple for four months saying that they must retrieve the unsold items from their store immediately. Esposito said when the couple "never complied" with the order,

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Back to business: Golden Gate Business Association's renewal

by Peter Cassels

It was not that long ago that the Golden Gate Business Association, San Francisco's gay and lesbian chamber of commerce, was withering on the vine, a shadow of its former self.

The oldest such group in the nation, the GGBA was founded in 1974 and grew into an organization of some 1,200 members before the HIV epidemic hit. In recent years, its membership shrunk to about 285.

Recently, though, the group has risen like a phoenix, infused with fresh blood, new leadership, a growing membership, and innovative programs to benefit businesses and build bridges to the wider community. In 1997, it developed a bank loan program for members, a method to get HIV-positive people back to work, and a youth outreach program.

Irv Spivak, its immediate past president, contends GGBA plays an essential role in the city's life. "Even though we are gay and lesbian, it's important to understand that we also are citizens of this great city," he says. "What works for the entire city works for our community as well." That's why the organization has attracted many non-gay members and forged relationships with other groups, such as Bay Area Career Women, the Small Business Network, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and major corporations. The mayor and every member of the Board of Supervisors are regular fixtures at the GGBA annual dinner.

Its role as the city's gay and lesbian chamber of commerce means that "the people who run the city are very cognizant of our existence and want our support on various issues," Spivak says. "After all, we represent a significant portion of the economy of this city."

A loan together

Negotiations with GGBA's new corporate member-banks led to the creation of a micro loan program for members. Thus far, Citibank, Sterling Bank, and WestAmerica Bank have signed onto the program, offering loans from \$500 to more than \$250,000.

"A lot of the small businesses that have weathered the [HIV] storm are probably cash-tight from all the expenditures in trying to fight the epidemic, and that's where the loan program comes in, to give them that working capital," Spivak says. "The other unique advantage [is] the small amount of the loans. A lot of banks will give you \$50,000, but there are very few loan programs where a business in a small start-up position can get a



Nanette Miller

\$500 loan."

"Another benefit is that it allows a gay- or lesbian-owned business to check a minority box on the application to qualify," according to Nanette Miller, GGBA's 1998 president, the second lesbian to head the organization since its inception.

The GGBA has also created Positive Impact, a coalition designed to assist HIV-positive individuals who want to return to the workforce. "We have the ability to bring together the best of business to assist people who want to go back into the business world as an employer or an employee, so they have the feeling of being productive and, quite frankly, focus on something other than their disease," Spivak, himself HIV-positive, explains. The coalition includes the Life Program and Positive Resource, two nonprofit agencies. In its first year, the coalition has facilitated more than 500 temporary and more than 140 permanent positions.

"We are formulating a model that will address the needs of women who have successfully fought breast cancer as well," Miller adds. "We want to make the program inclusive for anyone who has had a serious illness, physical or mental, to get them back to work, and provide them with the job training and the networking resources and support to get back to work."

During 1998, Positive Impact also will conduct a series of forums that will bring together experts in business and industry, social issues, government, health, credit and insurance to discuss concerns HIV-positive people have with returning to the workforce.

Queer Junior Achievement

GGBA's youth outreach program will help create and utilize the first queer-oriented Junior Achievement curriculum. This national organization teaches high school students about business and economics. Slated to be launched in January, the program initially will target LYRIC members and GLSEN (the Gay, Les-

bian and Straight Education Network). "We're also attempting to work with the Unified School District to bring the program into the classroom," Miller explains. "GGBA members will teach students and be available as mentors."

"A whole generation was decimated by the AIDS epidemic, so we're trying to reach the gay and lesbian future entrepreneur to give them a positive role model. Gay and lesbian teenage suicides are very high. We want to show them that they are not forgotten, have positive role models, and can be successful members of the community. Of course, they also will be our future members and leaders."

Recruitment is of paramount importance. Before they developed the programs, GGBA's leaders had to resurrect the organization from a quagmire of debt caused by low membership in recent years. "We had a revolving debt of \$30,000, which the board two years ago was able to cut to \$12,000," Spivak explains. "When my administration took over in December 1996, we were presented with a \$12,000 deficit, which by April had been retired."

The leadership also has successfully changed GGBA's image of being an all-male, good-ol'-boys club. About a third of the more than 300 members are women. The group has launched a membership campaign aimed at diversifying even more, and reaching a 2,000 membership by the year 2000. "After all, we are 10 percent of every community," says Spivak. ▽

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Comings and goings, last year and this year

Looking back on the past 12 months, we have to say we're encouraged about the future for gay and lesbian Americans — and even more so for the gays and lesbians elsewhere (with a few notable exceptions, like Iran and Iraq).

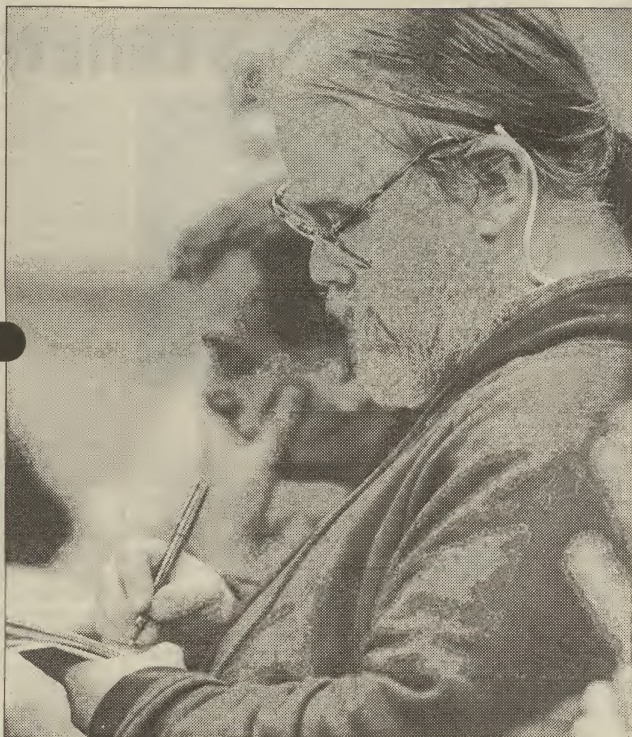
AIDS deaths are still down, continuing the trend that began in 1996; we didn't have two full pages of obituaries in any issue of the B.A.R. last year, and we hope to see that continue to be the case throughout 1998.

Meanwhile, our opponents' religious fundamentalism, while still oppressive and too powerful with conservative lawmakers, doesn't seem to be gaining more ground with our fellow Americans. It's becoming evident that those people who have a propensity to that kind of superstitious behavior have already been sucked into its influence, and the rest of the country seems more empowered to resist it than in recent years. (Despite which, it's clear the right-wing fundie forces must be battled as strongly as ever.)

Here in the Bay Area, there is obviously less street activism than during the early, heady days of gay liberation, but there is more mainstream political action. This month, we will get our first gay (or, for semantic sticklers, lesbian) San Francisco Treasurer; that breakthrough, added to the numerous gay and lesbian elected and appointed officials on both sides of the bay, shows we are a force to be reckoned with and a political presence that will never go away.

Conkin has left the building

But speaking of going away, we at the B.A.R. are extremely sad that our longest-writing staff reporter, Dennis Conkin, will be leaving us at the beginning of 1998. After more than eight years of covering the community's triumphs and setbacks, lawmakers and lawsuits, bashings and bashes (and too many other historic events to numerate), Dennis is taking some time off to tend to his personal



Man at work: B.A.R. scribe Dennis Conkin ponders the realities.

needs. Although his leave is health-related, we are happy to report it's nothing life-threatening (although as anyone with back trouble can verify, any spinal condition *feels* that way).

Fortunately, although Dennis will be leaving the building, he will continue to write for the paper on an occasional basis; he keeps an astounding amount of gay and lesbian history on file in his head, and it

would be a huge loss for us to do without his many skills.

No doubt these words will embarrass the hell out of him, but this is New Year's — a time for heartfelt-albeit-embarrassing things — so we don't care. We're glad we have this opportunity to wish him all the best in 1998.

And you, too. If we all work together, we can make it the best year ever. ▼

In '98, let's make the Castro a neighborhood to care about

by Neil Uscier

Last month my lover and I were down on Polk Street looking for a different place for brunch. We live in the Castro/Eureka Valley, but are tired of the vagrants and beggars every 10 feet asking for spare change, lying in the streets, leaving their mess and litter behind them with no regard to our community and being downright rude and obnoxious at times.

It was amazing how everyone used to complain about the Polk Street area, but comparatively speaking, it was a pleasure to be on Polk Street. There was very little litter on the sidewalks, the streets were cleaner, and we didn't see as many vagrants sitting in doorways every 10 feet or so.

If the Castro is supposed to be our neighborhood to care about, when are we going to take action to do something about keeping the streets cleaner and stop from being harassed by the bums and other derelicts every ten feet, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day?

I give credit to the Castro Theatre, who seem to be taking action. As I walk my dog early in the morning, I noticed they are leaving their lights on through the night. It was getting ridiculous the amount of people sleeping there, waking only to urinate in the open (and yes, I have personally seen this happening on more than one occasion in

the past).

This is a matter for all of us who live in the Castro area. We should feel comfortable to walk along the streets with our boyfriends, girlfriends, children and pets without worrying about being harassed, stepping over broken bottles (usually beer or liquor), and watching out for chicken bones all along the sidewalks as well as used hypodermic needles in grassy areas.

We all want to be in a safe and clean environment, but we as taxpayers, residents, and merchants have to put up with a single group's negligence, lack of consideration, and just plain laziness. I understand that there are people who are homeless because of no fault of their own. I

pay considerable taxes and donate both money and time to other charities for those in such situations, and for those who want help getting back on their feet. But the vast majority of these aggressive panhandlers, drug-users, and other vagrants currently infesting the neighborhood don't fit into this category. These people don't appear to want to better themselves, and in fact only seem to want a free ride by accosting and intimidating those they see as easy prey for their aggressive and sometime even violent panhandling and other accosting, disrespectful behavior.

I am proud of who I am and proud of my home, and want to start feeling the same again about my neighborhood, the way it was even 5-10 years ago. We did not have this many vagrants and derelicts on our neighborhood streets. And to be honest, those that were here then were truly down on their luck, seeking help, and seemed to have more respect for themselves and others than those here today.

In addition to this problem, let's not close Castro Street again on Halloween!

That night for us who live in the neighborhood, it was a nightmare, as well as there was garbage thrown all around, broken windows, plain disruption, improper parking, and all by straight people who came back to the Castro this year because the word got out the street

was closed and there was no charge. Halloween of 1996 on the Castro was a pleasure, as the main party was down at Civic Center. As a neighborhood, let's not let that happen next year, Halloween comes out on a Saturday night, and we will only be asking for more trouble and problems if we allow Castro Street to be closed.

In closing, we as neighbors, merchants and friends need to take our community back and make it *clean and safe again!* ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Crying 'Wolf' on notification

Your hit piece against Supervisor Yee's proposed notification process ["Oh, Yee of little sense," December 18] - providing information to neighbors impacted by public agency sites - is troubling. Comparing Yee to Adolph Hitler is insulting. It is as ludicrous as the *Examiner* editorial equating Tom Ammann's opposition to Militarist Colin (Gays 'R' Not Us) Powell to the right-wingers opposed to Jim Hormel's Ambassadorship - a journalistic embarrassment. Must you attempt to outdo that?

What is wrong with city government treating citizens like adults and telling them plainly what it intends to do? So far, no agency site has been prevented by the right to notification, which, as you report, is already required by law. Yee's proposal will clarify the law, prevent expensive lawsuits (and hostility that surrounds them), and give current residents the opportunity to express their concerns and meet with their new neighbors in an open process. This is not a bad thing, certainly not the Armageddon you envision.

Your concern, that HIV/AIDS facilities require special treatment, may have merit, and should be discussed without rancor or accusative tone.

In San Francisco, where neighborhood activists are part of the landscape, it is preferable that objections - even animosity - be raised with the project sponsor, rather than subject vulnerable facility residents to the fears and confusion of prospective neighbors. The resentments I've observed were due to the surprise element and covert methods used by city agencies too arrogant or too lazy to be good and considerate neighbors. Be they PWAs, mothers with crack babies, services for the homeless, or whatever, it is better to lay the groundwork for a working relationship as it begins. It pays off down the line.

The days of trusting Big Brother to know what is best for us have long since passed - trust is a two-way street. Trust can be built, and irrational fears dispelled, when people know what is going on in their own neighborhoods.

Crying "Wolf!" when none exists may frighten, sell ads in papers, or rally opposition, but isn't that exactly what we don't want to happen when HIV/AIDS services seek new homes in our San Francisco neighborhoods?

Doug Comstock
Past President,
Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

Necessity of neighborhood notification

Your diatribe against Supervisor Yee's attempt to make government accountable to the people twisted the truth, and I wonder why?

The necessity of Leland Yee's neighborhood notification legislation became evident to me one morning in 1994, when I awoke to find the Sheriff's Dept. moving in six felons next door.

Fortunately, I am a probation officer and recognized four of the felons as having serious assault and burglary convictions. But how would average citizens protect themselves? The inmate flight risk (60%) and propensity toward violence threaten the safety and quality of life in unprotected residential communities where help may be far away, leaving the elderly, the ill, and children unable to protect themselves.

It took eight months and \$19,000 in legal fees to stop that bureaucratic whimsy of putting felons in all of our 33 neighborhoods. That harebrained scheme would have provided poor nutrition and little innovative education or job training. The only beneficiaries would have been the "non-profit contractors"; the neighbors and inmates would have been the losers.

As a psychologist, Dr. Yee is sensitive to the needs of people with mental and physical health problems. No one is more compassionate. I know because I have witnessed him in action with PWAs.

Why do you attempt to confuse your readers with Megan's Law? Or gay men convicted in the draconian days for consensual sex with an adult? Or compare Yee with Pete Wilson or Hitler, an unmitigated insult to Holocaust survivors and their families?

Leland Yee does not need to worry about running for mayor or establishing a political base. His good work in the gay community and the city as a whole have been evidenced by past election results.

The Mayor of Mendacity, on the other hand, is his own worst enemy. What expertise does Redevelopment Comm. Mark Dunlop (the Mayor's toady, who has done nothing but campaign for the 49ers' wretched stadium) bring to this issue? Or an agency like Redevelopment, with its history of wholesale displacement of vulnerable communities? Why was no one from the communities that have been fighting for public notice interviewed?

In the future, I expect and hope to see better analysis in the editorial section of the *B.A.R.*, and balanced news coverage that informs without bias.

Sharon Bretz
"Fired DPT Commissioner,
Former Fire Commissioner"

Bad news proposal

I am writing to thank you for your editorial against Supervisor Yee's notification proposal. This proposal is bad news for anyone who needs city services. Clearly, the intent of the proposal is to keep city-funded services and housing out of the local NIMBYs' neighborhoods. Because people with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS, are more likely to receive city services, they are more likely to be impacted by this proposal. That is discrimination. If Sup. Yee doesn't understand that, his supporters certainly do. What an unfortunate waste of time and energy and money a ballot initiative will present. We need to be working to get more housing and more services for our community, not erecting barriers.

Bill Hirsh
Executive Director, Mental Health Association of
San Francisco

City Hall and the fertile brain

Wayne Friday repeats the misinformation about the rehabilitation of City Hall which the local press has put out for the last two years.

During the 1995 bond campaign, the City Department of Real Estate put out a paper which said that although the seismic work on City Hall would decrease its capacity by about 200 employees, it could still accommodate about 200 more city employees than before because of transference of the courts and its staff to the new Courthouse. This would

relieve the city from leasing some 65,000 square feet, thus saving \$1 million a year. The Real Estate Department's estimate of the building's capacity turned out to be too optimistic, so that no savings would occur, and its capacity will be around 1,100 employees. In spite of the various statements of the mayor about City Hall, the Board of Supervisors has always had the final say about its occupancy. They have always manifested an intention to return to City Hall employees in a number in proximity to its capacity. With the final floor plans now fairly complete, the Finance Committee this week has done so.

During the bond campaign, we told voters City Hall would be restored to the splendor intended by its architect, Arthur Brown Jr. That included reopening of the two light courts on the north and south sides of the grand staircase, and reprogramming them as flexible spaces as intended by the architect. (For the last several decades, these spaces have been filled in with wooden partitions containing offices for various city workers.) The rotunda of City Hall and the light courts could be rented out to private parties for events generating revenue to help maintain this grand building. All of this was planned before the election of Mayor Brown. However, the press has attributed it all to his fertile brain, and thus the controversy.

Senator Kopp has now waded and demanded the return to City Hall of the same offices formally there, not the same number of city employees. He also demands that the light courts be rebuilt with partitions and filled with workers. His intentions are self-serving, his actions harmful to the great building, and his initiative deserving of dismissal.

James W. Haas
Treasurer, City Hall Bond campaign

Victorian's secrets

Regarding the Fallon Building, I want to say I agree 100% with the *B.A.R.* editor (*Mailstrom*, November 20) that once the Community Center Board has rendered its judgment, everybody else should just Shut Up and Mind Their Own Business. Who asked them, anyway? Aren't we being torn apart by togetherness?

I know some are asking why the Board didn't look into the feasibility of renovation from the outset. Don't you just know these are the same people who read a recipe all the way through before they start cooking? Never heard of spontaneity, guys?

Yes, I hear whispers that the Board never did intend to use the Fallon and only kept that tidbit from the rest of us until after we'd voted the funding. To those people, I just want to say, "So what?!" Everybody has secrets. And, like, you've never been fooled before? Look at Macy's ads, and what do you think are the chances that you'll look like that in their underwear?

People in L.A. get along perfectly well with glass and concrete, and no old Victorians. Maybe if we had fewer of them here, we wouldn't hear so much squawking about a badly needed McDonalds in the Castro - or, better yet, in the new community center. Well-fed people have less on their minds, is what I say.

Victor J. Banis
San Francisco

[For clarification, we believe everyone should get involved in as many things as they are interested, as soon as possible. The point of power is now, and time is of the essence. Our comment that the community center board is now comprised of people who got involved earlier was not meant to imply that anybody should shut up.]

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— Carole Fiedler

Ramifications of owner move-in bill

Our misguided Board of Supervisors, spearheaded by Tom Ammann and Mabel Teng, has sent a clear message to anyone who now owns a two- or three-unit building in San Francisco: If you ever have hopes of selling your building, don't rent to anyone in their 50s or over, or to someone who is disabled, or who is likely to be disabled or terminally ill at sometime.

The new law works like this: say you own and live in a two-unit building, and the second unit is occupied by a person who moved in 10 years ago, when he was 50. You want to sell your building, and the buyers are two brothers who each want to live in one of the apartments. Well, they are out of luck, and you are out of luck, and the sale doesn't go through, because there is no way to move the 60-year-old out and the brother in. Same thing if the person is handicapped.

Same scenario if you were not selling, but wanted to move your 58-year-old mother into the unit. You couldn't do it, although the property is yours.

Now, on the surface this looks like a very good thing for the senior citizen, although it is a very bad thing for the homeowner. However, the reality of this picture is that anyone who owns a 2-3 unit building, if they ever expect to sell it, is not now going to rent to anyone approaching 60, or someone who is handicapped, or who is HIV-positive, or to someone they suspect may be. This is going to have a tremendous impact on the Castro, the Sunset, and other parts of the city which are filled with 2- and 3-unit dwellings.

I am sure that the Board thought that protecting seniors and the handicapped from eviction would make great press for them. However, as usual, they can't look far enough past their own aggrandizement to see the eventual ramifications of their actions.

Remember, this is the same governing body that passed rent control, a law that has virtually forced landlords to increase rents each year whether they wanted to or not. The rents in San Francisco are artificially inflated because of rent control, and will only keep rising as long as it is in effect. It is the renters who suffer. This is what happens when the laws of supply and demand are tampered with. Unfortunately, it is seniors, the handicapped, and PWAs who will be the next people hurt by the Board's tampering.

John Williams
San Francisco

Existing rent laws already work

This week the Board of Supervisors enacted a new law prohibiting eviction of HIV-positive or elderly people in "owner move-in" situations.

This is not just bad law, it is bad public policy. Here is why. The new law will make it harder for the disabled or elderly to find a place to live in ordinary circumstances, let alone an eviction. Not every HIV-positive person is disabled and unable to work or relocate. Not every elderly person is destitute or without the resources to find a new place to live. This law gives the positive or elderly person another obstacle when they seek rental housing today. If a landlord rents to this new class of people, he may be unable to sell or occupy a building if his circumstances change, so he will rent to someone else. And what will the courts say when an HIV-positive owner wants to evict a healthy HIV-positive renter when the owner becomes disabled?

Existing eviction law provides for penalties in the tens of thousands of dollars for abuses, and is sufficient to deal with this problem. The new law is more a play for the gay or senior vote than an attempt to deal with San Francisco's housing problems.

Jim Forster
San Francisco

Use it or lose it

San Francisco tenants should be grateful to F.J. Gallagher, whose recent report exposed one of the landlord conspiracies which is causing the city's worst housing shortage since the end of W.W.II. He got Kira Eldemir to state publicly that she's conspiring with other landlords to prolong and deepen the crisis, by keeping desperately needed units off the market: "On my block, I know of about 13 units that are off the market. ...When the tenants who are living with me move out, I won't rent them out again, either. I'll just have a 16-room house to run around in and play." (Multiply 13 times the number of residential blocks in San Francisco!)

Other cities have had great success with "use it or lose it" ordinances: units kept off the market over six months are bought under Eminent Domain and become part of the publicly-owned rental stock. This, along with a "love it or leave it" ordinance (all municipal employees must live in the city), does wonders for the economy and the morale of a city! Jerry Brown has proposed both for Oakland. Tenant and worker organizations should start working on such ballot measures for San Francisco.

Use it or lose it, Kira. Love it or leave it.

Larry Kisinger
Green Party
San Francisco

No more Puckett

I am a regular reader of your paper. I enjoy your articles and interviews, as well as your calendar of events and list of community resources.

However, I would like to make a request: please, no further interviews with Joshua Puckett, nor any reprints of full-body photos. He's obviously attractive and boyish-looking. In fact, you might even say he looks rather angelic. But the bottom line is he has killed a man and a member of the gay community. In addition, prior to this, he was convicted of armed robbery. I would hope you can find a way to report on the story in a balanced way without giving him any unnecessary publicity or glorification.

To a certain extent, I do see the value in having printed the excerpt of his interview. I read it, and I came to the conclusion that he's a liar, a parasite, and an opportunist. I think most people would agree that a young man who works and spends leisure time in the Castro and spends time with gay men would more than likely be gay himself. If he's not, then he's using his youth and appearance as a means to manipulate people and attempting to take advantage of the men who are attracted to him. In any case, he still comes across as a liar and a parasite with few, if any, skills or value to society other than being photogenic.

The man Joshua Puckett killed, Vitaly "Steve" Poliakov, can't tell his side of the story. However, to show some sort of journalistic balance, I'd be interested in seeing more written about friends of the deceased man and their view of Joshua Puckett and his relationship with the man he admits to having killed. Also, insight into Joshua Puckett by people who spent time working with him or who have had social interaction would be a good idea.

Thanks for allowing me to voice my opinion and for providing a valuable resource to the gay community. I appreciate being able to get news that directly affects my neighborhood and my life on a weekly basis. Keep up the good work.

Steve Weller
San Francisco

[We have no further interviews planned with Puckett, but believe the one we ran was valuable, in that it gave you and other readers insight into his thoughts and actions and let you to come to your own conclusions.]

Sex advice from Mom

[The following is an open letter to the gay community from a PFLAG Mom:]

My Dear Ones,

I recently read an Op-Ed piece by Larry Kramer in the December 12 *New York Times*, regarding the Sex Panic movement and redefining gay culture. Sex Panic is a small but vocal group that espouses "sexual freedom" and, according to Kramer, wants gay men to have sex when and where and how they want to.

Now, as a mother, sex is not exactly a subject I'm anxious to give advice about. But, as a Mother of a gay son, I feel that it's imperative that I at least take a stand on what I feel is at best an ill-advised attempt to redefine what it means to be gay. When I speak in public, one of the things that I often say is that being gay is so much more than what my son and his life partner do in the privacy of their bedroom. Then along comes Sex Panic and says, "Not only is that all it is, but we like it public and unsafe." Far be it for me to judge, but darling boys, that's just plain nuts.

I have a theory that part of the reason a movement like this exists is that many of its members act disposably because they feel disposable. In other words, they have been cast out by their families and very likely feel that they have nothing to lose, and living on the edge makes them feel something. But I am here to say that there is another movement afoot called M.A.R.S., which stands for Mothers Against Reckless Sex. And we care. We care about you and what you do. Some of us have already buried our children because of AIDS, and we don't want to do it with a new generation. You matter to us in a very visceral way.

If you want to have sex, have it. If you want to have sex in public restrooms, have that. Not every one of you wants a life of commitment and the white picket fence. Not every one of you wants to be assimilated into the mainstream, and I understand that. But why make unsafe sex the focus of your lives? Although not gay myself, I know from having a gay son, that it truly is more than sex. It's about who he is to his core. It's about his soul; it's about your souls, your very ethos, your fundamental values. You are not like tissues or garbage. You are, each and every one of you, dear and precious to us. You are truly worthy of our concern.

Please be safe. Please don't let this group, formed in a "fury" to defeat being assimilated, speak for you. Sex Panic sounds to me like a group that needs another group to say, "I'm a Mother from M.A.R.S. You matter, I love you. Don't go. I want you in my life." And so, we're here, we're queer-loving Mothers, get used to us.

Nancy Lamkin Olson
Board Member of Chicago-PFLAG
and founder of M.A.R.S.
Chicago, Illinois

POLITICS

Term limits hit Dems where it hurts

by Wayne Friday

The brand-new 1998 political year appears to be starting on a tough note for California Democrats. The recent U.S. Court of Appeals decision upholding term limits for Golden State legislators (Prop. 130) appears to hit the Democrats the hardest.

Of the 26 state lawmakers who will be forced out of office in 1998 because of term limits, 17 – or 65 percent – are Democrats. A number of those are already scouring the horizon for different positions, and many may wind up seeking the same post.

For example, take a look at the upcoming race for state attorney general. With Republican incumbent **Dan Lungren** running for governor, there are a gaggle of AG wannabes. The Democrat most likely to get his party's nod for the job is state Senate President Pro Tem **Bill Lockyer** of Hayward. Lockyer will almost certainly be challenged, however, by fellow Democratic state Senator **Charles Calderon** of Whittier and former U.S. Representative **Lynn Schenk** of San Diego.

While Lockyer reportedly has nearly \$3 million already in campaign funds, both Calderon and Schenk are believed to be able to raise big bucks as well. With such well-known, well-heeled opponents, a Lockyer win next June is no sure thing.

Meanwhile, the Republicans are not sitting by and idly conceding the attorney general position to the Democrats. Lungren's chief deputy, **David Stirling** (a former assemblyman), and Orange County District Attorney **Michael Capizzi** will fight it out for the GOP nomination. Next to the race for governor, the battle to succeed Dan Lungren will likely be 1998's toughest statewide contest.

Of course, the larger fate of California's Democrats still depends, many believe, on the eventual shakedown of the race for governor. Namely, on whether or not Senator **Dianne Feinstein** decides to give up DC for a chance at Sacramento. Her announcement is expected sometime this month, and most pundits feel her entry into the fray will redefine the entire Democratic Party slate.

For instance, the latest Sacramento rumor has Feinstein becoming a candidate and, of course, the immediate favorite to lock up the Demo nod. In this scenario, Lieutenant Governor **Gray Davis**, an announced gubernatorial candidate, reflexes for his current job, with Lockyer slated for attorney general, and Assembly Speaker **Cruz Bustamante** filing for secretary of state.

Despite the fact that more Democratic members of the Legislature are being forced out than Republicans, term limits will have no likely effect on the party lineup of lawmakers after next November's general election. Democrats currently control both the state Senate and the Assembly, and many political observers feel that with U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer**



Mary Callanan

now a strong candidate for re-election and Dianne Feinstein likely as governor, Democrats should be able to keep their current legislative majority.

Kopp patrol

Overheard at a well-oiled Christmas cocktail party: "Why the hell doesn't **Quentin (Kopp)** just stop playing around and register with the Republicans – where he belongs?" This outburst was no doubt brought on by a comment the state senator recently made to a reporter when asked about a possible run for state attorney general. Kopp replied, "I'm not running because there is too much money raised ahead of me. Also, I think that both of the Republican candidates are good." And no, Senator Kopp will not challenge Mayor **Willie Brown** the next time around, but you can bet money he will find someone who will.

Is Sacramento businessman, U.C. regent and Prop. 209 chairperson **Ward Connerly** thinking of seeking elective office? Rumor has it.

One of my favorite weekly publications, **Dick Rosen-garten's CALPEEK**, gave its year-end "Time to Pack Up & Go Away" award to hateful former Representative **Bob Dornan**. CALPEEK notes that the venomous Dornan "still can't believe that a woman defeated him – and a Latina at that."

New Year's prediction: Despite a year of embarrassments, intra-party backbiting, etc., President **Bill Clinton** will end the first month of 1998 with the highest favorable ratings ever of his presidency. **Ronald Reagan** thought he was the King of Teflon? Hell, he's no match for Slick Willie.

In our nation's capital last week, a DC daily called the able Secretary of Defense **William Cohen** and his beautiful wife Janet (both registered Republicans, incidentally) "America's pre-eminent interracial couple."

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

is the chairperson of a dinner honoring retiring city Treasurer **Mary Callanan** on January 17 at the Fairmont. Mary is one of SF's true jewels, and no one deserves a party more. Dinner tickets start at \$100, and proceeds from the affair will be donated to a charity of Mary's choice (777-2340 for tickets and information).

Starting New Year's Day, New Hampshire's new state law will protect gays against discrimination in jobs, housing and public places.

After meeting with the ambassador-designate to Luxembourg, **James Hormel**, last week, anti-gay U.S. Senator **Tim Hutchinson** (R-Ark.) announced he will continue to oppose Hormel's nomination. He claimed that the San Francisco philanthropist and gay rights activist has been "an advocate of gay marriages, which flies in the face of legislation we've passed." Hutchinson, a radical right-wing junior senator, was one of those who blocked confirmation of Mr. Hormel last month, saying, "Any ambassador should represent our values, views, and policies." Well, he does represent our values, views, and policies, Senator.

Around the *San Francisco Examiner* building at Fifth and Mission, the pigeons are cooing that Exboss **Phil Bronstein** and Hollywood superstar **Sharon Stone** are thinking of taking the "big step."

Well, don't book them in San Francisco, whatever you do! The Spice Girls, I mean. At the launch of the English group's new film, *Spice World* (original title!) in Spain last Friday, singer **Geri Halliwell** (Ginger Spice) answered the boos of reporters with an ugly anti-gay epithet – in Spanish, no less.

In Sacramento last week, Governor **Pete Wilson**, who endorsed term limits when he first ran for governor in 1990, told reporters he "regrets" he cannot run for a third term. The 64-year-old politico is said to be looking "long and hard" at yet another try for the White House. However, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue doesn't seem a likely future address for Sneaky Pete.

Missouri Senator **John Ashcroft**, a former minister, told NBC last week that he is "seriously considering" a run for the GOP presidential nod in 2000. Well, he might as well join **Pat Buchanan**, **Dan Quayle** and all the other anti-gay zealots in grabbing for the brass ring.

The race for president of the SF Board of Supes next year appears now to be a three-way fight between **Tom Ammiano** (the logical favorite), **Gavin Newsom**, and **Mabel Teng**.

In addition, those who are supposed to know these things tell me that Board of Education member **Juanita Owens** is the current favorite to replace outgoing Supe **Susan Leal**.

How's this for an expensive Christmas? A prominent local I know is such a fan of the late **Gianni Versace** that he gave neckties designed by the famed designer to no less than 25 of his gay and lesbian friends this year. Don't you wish you knew him, too?

Well, 1997 is now history, folks! Have a safe, healthy and Happy New Year, everyone! ▼

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Happy holidaze

by Beth Elliott

Wal-in' in a Winter Wonderbra Dept.: I think it was Samuel Johnson who said when one is tired of London, one is tired of life. I'd be tempted to say the same thing about San Francisco, except that sometimes I feel about San Francisco the way serious drinkers feel about New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Day: too many amateurs. Fortunately, this holiday season has been an antidote to that skepticism.

As usual, Thanks Bethie Day (called "Thanksgiving" for short on the calendars) kicks off the season. As usual, Christmas advertising started even earlier this year. Here's the handy rule: my birthday first, then His. It should be easy to remember in 1998, when the actual Thanks Bethie Day falls on the same day as the civil observance.

This year, the traditional Thanks Bethie Day dinner was in Pacifica, hosted by my old Compost Coven sister Diane and her husband Miles. It was, Goddess be praised, heavy on the wild mushrooms a strong case can be made for the proposition that nothing says holiday meal like chanterelles. Miles is an ordained lama, so I brought the Nepal photo album, and we swapped stories. Buddhist monks and Danielle Willis ... a very Bay Area Thanksgiving.

This year's twin benefits managed to get scheduled two days apart. First, for a gay youth pro-

gram, the return of Genghis Kath's Return of the Fruitcakes: Santa is Missing. The "fruitcakes" coming out of the woodwork for the equivalent of a leather title contest to find Santa's stand-in: such characters as a Rasta Claus, a Sanity Claus and others. Lots of wacky carols, too ... Oh Little Town of Castro Street, etc.

Then, at the World Famous Turf Club in Hayward, Randy Wright and I put on our fifth annual Santa's Slave Auction, benefiting the Women's Cancer Resource Center and the AIDS Emergency Fund. Great fun with great folks ... there's nothing like doing good by getting wild and silly.

By this time, there was the challenge of balancing the endless flow of holiday sweets with the wacko diet. I've done well; avoiding chocolate is impossible, but I've managed to turn down nearly every baked good (and the dreaded carbohydrates). Two goodies, though, must be accommodated every year: publisher Bob Ross's box of Godiva chocolates for each B.A.R. staffer (does he throw one fine Christmas party!), and the Goode Company pecan pie my baby brother and sister-in-law send from Houston. The latter comes in a wooden box, onto the top of which is burned

spiring new writing for Winter Solstice, like her "Inanna in the Underworld" S/M performance piece ritual of three years ago; this year, folks brought food and readings. From there, it was off to leather friend Lance's new house. He's back in town after a couple of years and a serious romantic misadventure; the man he's just started dating here is so personable, bright, mature, and caring I had to whisper — joyfully — "Hold onto this one, darlin'."

Christmas offered the rare opportunity to sleep in, followed by noshing on the edge of Golden Gate Park as Ron and Valerie renewed their wedding vows. The potluck featured more chanterelles, cooked by their friend Yoshiko, who married an

American even though she's one of Japan's Living Cultural Treasures. Then down to Pacifica again, for a casual warm-up for Ryckje and John's annual New Year's Day musicians' holiday.

New Year's Eve: down to San Jose for Kevin Roche's party. Kevin and I had serenaded a very tired Leslie Ewing (of AEF) while her agency's share of the Santa's Slave Auction take was being counted. The singing together was great fun, and it did our hearts well to bring a smile to Leslie's

Sapphistication

Alas, the wacko diet means no latkes this year. Well, maybe just one... and the pecan pie.

the legend, "You just might consider thanking your lucky stars you're in Texas." Or that somebody who knows your tastes is.

I did find some Hanukkah gelt (chocolate coins) at See's to send my expatriate relatives in return. But I still regret the closing of Co-olat; I've yet to find another chocolatier that makes chocolate dreidls. I do hope someone takes up the slack by the time my little nephew's old enough to get a laugh as well as a nosh out of one.

Alas, the wacko diet means no latkes this year. Well, maybe just one ... that, and dividing the pecan pie in eight slices (one for each night?)

(At least I'm not doing the Waco diet instead: liberal servings of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the strictest of supervision ... you really get a good burn going on it, though...)

Fortunately, I was too full for dessert at the department luncheon ... a table full of techies at Kuleto & McCormick's in Ghirardelli Square, with a breathtaking view of Tam, Angel Island, Alcatraz, and the East Bay hills on the clearest of afternoons. If you can't get a thrill out of that, you must be dead, so I guess I'm not.

Pat Califia always has some in-

face through the exhaustion. Harmonizing, hamming it up, feeling those held notes vibrate through our bodies ... damn, that's fun!

New Year's Day: Pacifica by way of Ocean Beach, where some of us will make offerings to Mother Yemanjá, I've decided this will be a good New Year's Day for a purifying dip in the ocean ... "skyclad," of course. Last time: I had friends hold my official Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy towel for me when I ran back out of the ocean shivering. A stranger happened to be strolling by; hearing my whooping, he glanced over in the direction of the naked weirdo, shrugged his shoulders, and casually ambled on. Your basic San Francisco reality check, that.

This time: dry off, get warmed up, and head down to Pacifica with my guitar on my knee. Lots of musician folks doing originals and old Beatles songs, and making the usual bad puns and beautiful sounds with friends old and new.

I guess I can't be tired of San Francisco ... or life ... as long as this is how I celebrate the holidays. I trust y'all are having your own very San Francisco holidays, too. ▼

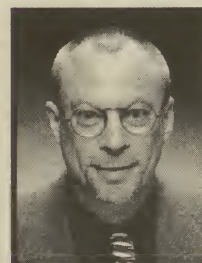
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25 years ago this week:

Where did 'Lesbian Nuns' come from?

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: A lesbian couple in Kansas City launches Naiad Press on January 1, 1973.

In January 1973, Barbara Grier and Donna McBride, a young lesbian couple from Kansas City, Missouri, had only one manuscript and a \$2,000 loan from friends with which to start a publishing company. Twenty-five years later, that company, Naiad Press, is the country's largest, most successful, and oldest lesbian publisher, with almost 400 books to its credit, and annual revenues approaching \$2 million. Its name, which means "water nymph," has become, in Grier's words, "a synonym for lesbian."

Grier and McBride met and fell in love in 1972. McBride was working as a librarian, and Grier was a bill collector by day, and editor of the Daughters of Bilitis lesbian journal, *The Ladder*, by night. Grier had joined that publication's staff in 1956, after having an epiphany the first time she saw the journal. "I remember thinking," Grier said recently, "this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life." *The Ladder* folded in 1972, but Grier and McBride were soon approached by friends — one of whom was novelist Sarah Aldridge — with the idea of starting a lesbian publishing company.

With money from Aldridge

and her lover and the hard work of Grier and McBride, Naiad Press published its first title in 1973, Aldridge's novel, *The Latecomer*, the start of a long line of Naiad romances. At a time when only a handful of women's bookstores existed, Naiad relied heavily on mail orders. Naiad inherited the mailing list of *The Ladder*, which had grown from 150 subscribers in 1956 to 3,800 at its demise, and Grier and McBride did four mailings in the first year, marketing their one and only book. The income from the mailings kept the press going.

About 500 *Ladder* subscribers still receive Naiad's catalog, along with more than 25,000 other lesbians. And according to Grier, many of those 500 original subscribers own everything the publishing company ever published. From the beginning, Naiad had no trouble finding manuscripts to publish. Many lesbian writers approached the company with their novels, and Grier also used her prior experience as a "skip tracer" (a trade term for bill collector) to track down lesbian novelists of the past whose work she admired. That way, the novels of Ann Bannon and Gale Wilhelm got second lives as Naiad reprints.

In 1980, Grier and McBride relocated to Florida, where they both continued to hold down full-time jobs while operating

Naiad out of their home. "We got up at 5 a.m.," Grier recalled, "and Donna would go out to pack books in an unheated shed while I made breakfast." After work, they would do Naiad business until 10:30 at night. It wasn't until 1982 that Grier took a leap of faith and quit her day job, and McBride followed suit six months later.

There was a recession that year, and Grier and McBride held on through several months with no income. But because the women were now able to devote all their time to the press, the company flourished.

A succession of popular titles ensured Naiad's future. Some of the press's early bestsellers are now lesbian classics, like Jane Rule's *Outlander* and Sheila Ortiz Taylor's *Faultline*. In 1982, while on a book tour with one of their authors, Grier met "a shy, tall woman with a white Afro," who came up to her in Los Angeles's Sisterhood Bookstore and said she had a novel to submit. Grier was tired and grouchy and snapped, "Tell me, does anything happen in this novel?" The woman turned out to be Katherine V. Forrest, and the book was *Curious Wine*, which sold out its first print run of 8,500 copies in less than a month. Forrest went on to become a Naiad superstar.

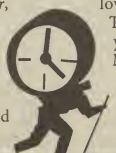
But the title that really established Naiad was *Lesbian Nuns*

(1985), a nonfiction book about life behind convent walls that made Naiad and authors Rosemary Kurb and Nancy Manahan \$500,000, a remarkable sum in small publishing. The book was reviewed in everything from the *Navaho Times* to the *New York Times*, and was translated into many languages. Bette Midler held a copy of it on screen in the movie *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*. Naiad could finally move its office out of Grier and McBride's house and into a separate building, and the company thrived, while many other women's press-

es failed.

Today, Grier attributes Naiad's long life to other factors, too. The press has diversified its list to include videos and books on tape, and Grier, an aggressive marketer, has successfully sold foreign rights for many of its books. Most importantly, she says, "We genuinely like what we're doing. And I have an absolute inability not to win." ▼

David Bianco is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached at AriBianco@aol.com.



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Ellen best of '97 media round-up

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

One of the more interesting and debated events of 1997, and consequently one of the bigger stories covered by the media, was Ellen Morgan and Ellen DeGeneres's simultaneous emergence from the closet. In the past two weeks, a number of media outlets have done year-end round-ups and "Best of '97" lists. *Entertainment Weekly* named DeGeneres "Entertainer of the Year," and *Us* magazine wrote an insightful article as well. Some other looks back at Ellen's landmark year included:

- The December 20 *TV Guide* named DeGeneres the third "Best of '97," placing her among a group of ten other TV personalities, "each a person of strong personality and great accomplishment."

- The December 29 issue of *Newsweek* all but ignores DeGeneres. Besides its giving her a down arrow on its "Conventional Wisdom" page for "market[ing] [her] personal life to revive [a] flagging sitcom," and a satirical cartoon espousing much of the same sentiment, DeGeneres's accomplishments are missing from the remainder of the special double issue.

- In its "Man of the Year" issue, Ellen's coming-out "Puppy Episode" got *Time*'s pick for the

second-best television event of 1997. "To live up to its hype, it had to be a classic — and it was," *Time* concluded.

- The December 29 issue of *People* magazine places DeGeneres among its "25 Most Intriguing People of the Year" for "reshaping TV's take on sexual identity."

- The December 24 special edition of *Primetime Live* featured a look back at 1997, with the program's first, rather lengthy segment dedicated to portions of DeGeneres's April interview with Diane Sawyer.

Contact:

- Jack Curry, Managing Editor, *TV Guide*, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 4th Floor, NY 10036-8701, fax: 212.852.7470, feedback form: www.tvguide.com/report.html;

- Letters to the Editor, *Newsweek*, 251 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019-6999, fax: 212.445.5068, e-mail: letters@newsweek.com;

- Letters to the Editor, *Time*, Time-Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.0323, e-mail: letters@time.com;

- Carol Wallace, Managing Editor, *People*, Time-Life Bldg., Rockefeller Ctr, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.0331, e-mail: editor@people.com;

- Phyllis McGrady, Executive Producer, *Primetime Live*, ABC Television Network, 77 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023-6201, fax: 212.456.2381, e-mail: abcaudr@abc.com.

Anne Heche becomes 'more of a woman'

The January 1998 cover story of *Los Angeles Magazine* features an intimate and frank look at openly gay actress Anne Heche. "Addicted to Love" by Merle Ginsberg explores Heche's rising star, the headlines she began making when she started dating Ellen DeGeneres, and whether she can

still "play straight."

Heche explains that for her movie roles, she "put[s] on the skin of whatever's in the script. And I've obviously had a lot more experience being straight than being gay. They should ask me if I can play gay!"

Heche also tackles criticism and stereotypes of how she dresses, based on myths of how lesbians all dress like men. "Did I suddenly become a boy because I'm in love with Ellen?" she asks. "To me, I became more of a woman. ... The story is between your ears — not your legs."

For her honesty, Anne's newfound life with TV's most visible openly gay star has cost her contact with most of her ultra-religious family. Instead, Heche has embraced DeGeneres's mom as her own. "I'm sad because I would love to have that closeness with my family," she acknowledges, "but I'm not going to hang on to 'form' if it gives me pain, angst and ulcer."

Please write *Los Angeles Magazine* and thank them for prominently highlighting Heche.

Contact: Spencer Beck, Editor-in-Chief, *Los Angeles Magazine*, 11100 Santa Monica Blvd., 7th Floor, LA, CA 90025-3334, fax: 310.312.2285, e-mail: webmaster@laweekly.com.

GLAADAlert update: Cyber Patrol makes good on its word

On Friday, December 26 (just short of the release of last week's critical GLAADAlert), Microsystems Software, the makers of the Internet filtering software Cyber Patrol, lifted the block on the majority of the WestHollywood sites on Geocities. The sites left blocked were sites Microsystems still felt met its criteria as "CyberNOTs."

In a conversation with Susan Getgood, Director of Marketing

at Microsystems, GLAAD found that the company had every intention of working to lift the block. Cyber Patrol acknowledged the error of blocking the entire WestHollywood directory and reiterated that the move was not intended to discriminate against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. She noted that when GLAAD pointed the problem out, the company immediately started

looking into the issue.

She re-affirmed the company's position of trying to create a software that can act as safety controls for parents, yet represents and respects a diversity of opinions and information. Getgood also let GLAAD know

that aside from sitting on the oversight committee for Cyber Patrol, GLAAD could also contact Microsystems at any time and question any site. Finally, Microsystems will be working with GLAAD's Interactive Media Director to make sure GLAAD has more of an active role on their oversight committee.

Please thank Microsystems Software for making good on their word to lift the block on the WestHollywood directory at Geocities and for re-affirming their commitment to diversity.

Contact: Dick Gorgens, CEO, and Susan Getgood, Director of Marketing, Microsystems Software, Inc., 600 Worcester Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701, e-mail: dickg@microsys.com for Dick Gorgens, susang@microsys.com for Susan Getgood; Cyber Patrol's Web page is located at <http://www.cyberpatrol.com>. ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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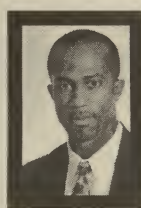
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1997 IN REVIEW

One more look

◀ page 1

windows on Castro Street.

On the legislative front, the city of San Francisco wrangled over the issue of mandated domestic-partner benefits for employees of city contractors; the state Senate Judiciary Committee successfully killed a ban on recognizing same-sex marriages in California; and apartment renters with AIDS got the city to protect them from owner move-in evictions. In another unprecedented move at City Hall, activists' efforts to bring accountability to AIDS service organizations culminated in gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano introducing a resolution that would force the organizations to abide by the city's Sunshine Laws.

On the police beat, another raid was staged on a medical marijuana outlet, this time by the feds rather than Attorney General and gubernatorial hopeful Dan Lungren's state police; an intensive manhunt got underway for the murderer of clothing designer Gianni Versace; and numerous gay-bashings took place, many of them aboard Muni buses.

Now, as 1997 barrels down to the finish line, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and "questioning" spectators and participants have every reason to feel simultaneously elated and exhausted by the year's queer spectacular.

January

After activists threatened to boycott The Cafe, a popular Market Street queer bar, gay San Francisco policeman Joe Bannon publicly denied widespread rumors that he moonlighted at the bar as a security guard. He went there only as a patron, he said, and often stood outside to get away from cigarette smoke. What had angered activists was Bannon's alleged role in the raid of the Cannabis Buyers Club,

since renamed the Cannabis Cultivators Club. Later that month, California Attorney General Dan Lungren, who ordered the raid on the club, shocked club-founder Dennis Peron by unknowingly sending him a **police videotape containing hard-core gay pornography**. The tape was one of a thousand the CBC defendants received in the legal "discovery" process. Apparently the cops had recorded over an old evidence videotape without checking to see what they were leaving uncovered at the end.

Torrential rains in the Russian River area left hundreds stranded as their homes were inundated with muddy water. **Face to Face**, an AIDS service organization in Guerneville, evacuated 20 clients who were at risk from the flooding, and put them up in Santa Rosa motels while they waited for the storm to blow over, and the flood to subside.



Archbishop William Levada

A row developed between City Hall and the Catholic Church over San Francisco's newly enacted domestic partner benefit law, set to go into effect in June. **Archbishop William Levada**, uncomfortable with having to extend domestic-partner benefits to workers at a Catholic institution, asked Mayor Willie Brown to exempt Catholic Charities' Leland House from the

ordinance. The flap threatened to overshadow the valuable service Leland House would provide to people with HIV.

Lesbian attorney **Kay Tsenin**, who waged a successful campaign against two gay male opponents, was sworn into office as a Municipal Court judge.

At a meeting of the **Coalition for Healthy Sex**, some 30 people debated whether sex clubs in San Francisco should be forced to adhere to safe-sex guidelines including a prohibition on closed, private rooms in sex clubs, and mandatory monitoring of club patrons' sexual activity.

A study showed that HIV infection rates among **young San Francisco gay men** dropped nearly three percent during 1994 and 1995. Despite the drop, the study showed that two percent of those men, ages 15-17, were already infected with HIV.

United Airlines raised a flap over having to provide domestic partner benefits to employees before it could be granted a 25-year lease for use of San Francisco International Airport. The airline, with 8,000 workers in San Francisco and 85,000 nationwide, said the cost of the program could unduly burden it, even though it expected only about one percent of its eligible workers would take advantage of the benefit.

Hot off the press like a ton of bricks, San Francisco's newly published **1997 HIV Prevention Plan** totaled 700 pages per copy.

February

After much politicking and posturing, **United Airlines** agreed to a compromise on the issue of domestic partner benefits. Supervisors Susan Leal, Tom Ammiano, and colleagues hammered out a two-year lease deal, granting United time to work out a DPP plan.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) announced it was moving forward to implement and enforce stan-

dards for sex club operations without holding public hearing. DPH said it would begin scheduling site inspections, and club owners rather than individual patrons would be penalized for any violations of safe-sex guidelines.

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) found itself in debt after taking on the task of staging **Halloween '96** at Civic Center Plaza. That massive undertaking, seen as a way of diverting hoards away from the Castro, left CUAV some \$184,000 in the hole, largely as a result of a police decision to throw open the admission gates, allowing tens of thousands of people to enter the party without paying a cover charge. CUAV Executive Director Lester Olmstead-Rose said that decision cost his organization up to \$150,000, and appealed to the mayor for funds to cover the shortfall. Another nonprofit organization, the Mission Economic Cultural Association, expressed an interest in taking on the Halloween production chore for 1997, relieving CUAV of the burden.

Architects from 45 firms entered a competition to design the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center**, to be located at 1800-1810 Market Street, the site of the dilapidated Fallon Building and a used-car lot. The architects were asked to incorporate the Victorian building in their designs.

A bomb went off in Atlanta on the 21st, injuring five in The Othello Lounge, a lesbian bar, and sending a chill through the queer community. A second bomb was found in the bar's parking lot. Several news organizations received a letter from a group called "The Army Of God" claiming responsibility for the attack. One letter, sent to the *Atlanta Constitution*, said "The Othello was attacked because it is a 'sodomite bar'."

Two San Francisco elementary school teachers received ten-day suspensions after one student's father complained the teachers per-

mitted speakers from **Community United Against Violence** to graphically describe gay sex acts. The CUAV speakers said they had responded only briefly, in a clinical, age-appropriate manner, when a student asked them how gay people have sex.

March

A mysterious Los Angeles-based group calling itself "**Essential AIDS**" began distributing posters and coin jars at corner grocery stores throughout San Francisco. The jars and the group's slogan, "Every penny helps the fight against AIDS," bore a disturbing resemblance to the jars and "Every penny counts" slogan of the long-established and highly regarded AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). Neither the Internal Revenue Service nor the charities section of the LA Police Department had any record of Essential AIDS, and Stanford University, listed as a recipient of money raised by the Essential AIDS, had never heard of the group.

The gay, San Francisco-based **Alexander Hamilton Post of the American Legion** stepped up pressure in its discrimination suit against the American Legion's California Department. It charged its parent organization with a variety of anti-gay discrimination and racketeering tactics, such as refusing to publish the post's articles in state publications, displaying anti-gay materials in the Legion's state headquarters office, and defrauding the post of its membership fees.

Some 100 AIDS patients participating in experimental-drug trials found themselves unable to contact their healthcare providers after the **Mt. Zion HIV Clinical Research Center** was forced by the University of California at San Francisco to vacate its Sutter Street offices abruptly.

High school students from throughout the Bay Area partici-

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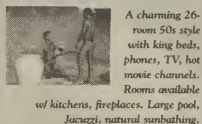
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One more look

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pated in the first Overcoming Homophobia Meeting for Youth (OHMY!). University High School senior Jesse Costello-Good organized the OHMY! conference, which was sponsored in part by the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, a San Francisco-based youth organization.

Gay cheerleaders and anti-gays jeered in Sacramento as Assembly Bill 101, which would add the words "sexual orientation" to already existing anti-discrimination laws for schools, made it through a major legislative hurdle. The bill was passed out of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education despite intense opposition from Lou Sheldon and his so-called Traditional Values Coalition.

In observance of the tenth anniversary of ACT UP nationwide, the organization's official San Francisco chapter, ACT UP/Golden Gate, hosted a "Ten Year Bash" attended by some 300 people.

The Coalition for Healthy Sex sent a letter to the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office director Dr. Mitchell Katz, informing him that no community group endorsed his new sex-club regulations.

Lesbian San Francisco police-woman Marlene Ottone received a major promotion in rank and left her position as sergeant in SFPD's Special Investigation Division to become a watch commander at Mission Station.

Former San Francisco supervisor and Clinton administration appointee Roberta Achtenberg was named senior vice president for public policy of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Following a heated discussion at their monthly meeting, members of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club approved a motion strongly urging the city's DPH to eliminate the recently codified ban on private sex-club spaces and the monitoring of sexual activities in sex establishments.

The Stop AIDS Project hosted the first of a series of forums on crystal meth. The purpose of the forums was to "break the silence" around the facts of speed addiction among queers, and highlight the connection between speed use and HIV risk behavior.

Two ACT UP/Golden Gate members from San Francisco were arrested in New York City, along with 70 other AIDS activists, during a tenth-anniversary Wall Street protest on March 24 commemorating a protest of

pharmaceutical manufacturer Burroughs-Wellcome.

April

African-American lesbian Pat Norman became the first woman president of the San Francisco Police Commission, while openly gay man Ed Petrillo was appointed to fill one of three Police Commission vacancies.

Superior Court Judge Jack Berman sentenced convicted gay-basher and Muni bus driver Warty Joubert to a 90-day county-jail term, plus three years probation, plus 200 hours of community service to be carried out in a lesbian and gay agency.

The San Francisco 49ers announced they would be adopting a domestic partners policy covering the team's entire organization. It was the first professional sports team in America to enact such a policy. No players asked for coverage for their gay partners.

Atlanta native Sandra L. Thurman became the third director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) after her appointment to the "AIDS czar" post by President Clinton.

A group of seven gay men and lesbians - including Buddhists, scholars, and a Muslim member of a human rights organization - received invitations to meet with the Dalai Lama during his June visit to San Francisco. The meeting was arranged by the Office of Tibet as a way to allow the Dalai Lama to speak directly with lesbians and gays, who wanted the Tibetan Buddhist leader to clarify several recent contradictory comments he has made regarding homosexual practices.

Department of Public Health's AIDS Office director Dr. Mitchell Katz said he was sorry the Coalition for Healthy Sex refused to endorse his sex-club guidelines, but they would be implemented anyway.

In a 9-1 vote, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Leslie Katz's proposed 18-month moratorium on new coffee houses and juice joints in the Castro and Upper Market neighborhoods. Only Supervisor Gavin Newsom opposed the measure, saying he disapproves of moratoriums.

After a series of amendments, a weakened Senate Bill 1301 (the "Nuisance Bill"), introduced by State Senator Tim Leslie (R-Tahoe City), fell to defeat in the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by John Burton (D-San Francisco). The bill would have regulated all sex clubs and bathhouses in the state.

May

San Francisco District Attor-

ney Terrence Hallinan requested that U.S. Attorney Michael Yamaguchi refuse to prosecute Flower Therapy, the medical-marijuana establishment raided by the Drug Enforcement Agency. Yamaguchi's office refused to comment on the issue, but as yet no formal charges had been filed, and no arrests made as a result of the raid.

After two armed robbers entered the Motherlode Bar in the Polk Gulch district an hour before closing time, shouted anti-gay epithets, then slugged the bar owner in the face, patrons and a bartender managed to corral the thugs and hold them till police arrived. One of the pair slipped free and, after threatening to kill a cop, ran up Larkin Street. He didn't get far, though, before he was again tackled by Motherlode patrons. After arresting the two incompetent robbers, police began investigating the possibility they were part of a trio of "Hip Hop Bandits" who had staged a series of armed robberies in the Castro area.

A thousand marchers participated in San Francisco's 14th Annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization.

Doctors inclined to prescribe medical marijuana for patients from AIDS-related illnesses were given a green light to do so by a U.S. district court judge in San Francisco. The judge determined that federal policies restricting such prescriptions and threatening doctors with stiff penalties violated the constitutional free speech rights of doctors and patients by limiting what they are allowed to discuss.

To the dismay of lesbian and gay Muni patrons and civil-rights activists, an arbitrator ordered Muni driver and convicted gay-basher Warty Joubert reinstated to his job. The arbitrator, William Easton, made the decision after Joubert's union appealed his termination.

The Air Transport Association (ATA) filed suit against the city of San Francisco, saying its domestic partner benefit law should not apply to airline operators at San Francisco International Airport, such as United Airlines. The ATA maintained they were subject only to federal law, not local ordinances.

A resolution adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Health Commission promised hope for those addicted to drugs, particularly gay men who get hooked on methamphetamines. The resolution supported the concept of city-funded substance-abuse treatment on demand.

New opposition to San Francisco's sex-club regulations came

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1997 IN REVIEW

from within the city's **Human Rights Commission**. That body's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee recommended the HRC ask the city's Department of Public Health to "reconsider" the recommendations.

A gay Lutheran pastor was among dozens of San Franciscans arrested by National Park Police for protesting the proposed demolition of former military-housing units on Presidio National Park land. The activists, including the **Reverend Jeff Johnson** of First United Lutheran Church, urged converting the buildings into low-cost housing to help homeless people in the city.



Dr. Sandra Hernandez

June

Latina lesbian **Dr. Sandra Hernandez** resigned as director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She said she looked forward to her new career, serving as fourth director of the San Francisco Foundation.

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors unanimously supported a policy change that would prohibit city employees from flying on **United Airlines** if alternative carriers could be found. The action came as a result of United's stiff opposition to the city's domestic partner law.

In speaking to a reporter while visiting San Francisco, the **Dalai Lama** clarified his views on the Buddhist attitude toward homosexuality. The spiritual leader in exile from Chinese-occupied Tibet distinguished between Buddhist "believers and non-believers." For believers, man-to-man and woman-to-woman lovemaking is generally considered "sexual misconduct." For non-believers, such relations can be "mutually agreeable" and "harmless." The explanation did not sit entirely well with San Francisco's many gay Buddhists. Later in the month, during a meeting with lesbian and gay Buddhists, clergy, and human rights activists, the Dalai Lama voiced his support for the full recognition of human rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

A temporary restraining order requested by **Deputy Attorney General Belinda Johns** froze the known assets of "Essential AIDS, Inc.," the Los Angeles-based enterprise suspected of operating a phony fundraising campaign in the Bay Area. The order also enjoined the company's operators from engaging in any further fundraising activities.

The **American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU)** A Vir-

ginia-based legal advocacy group founded by Christian fundamentalist homophobe **Pat Robertson** filed suit against San Francisco on behalf of any electrical contractor, claiming the city's new domestic partners benefit law caused the firm harm. Inquiries into the business, **PM&M Electric**, led to an empty Oakland building and other dead ends. Legal analysts said the suit was unlikely to succeed. It was eventually dropped.

Project Open Hand, acknowledging public perception that the salaries of AIDS service organization (ASOs) administrators are too high, froze the salaries of six top employees for the upcoming fiscal year. Open Hand Executive Director **Tom Nolan** said people's concern over pay levels signals a troubling decline in public support for ASOs. The AIDS epidemic is far from over, he cautioned.

Convicted **gaybasher Tyrone Johnson** was sentenced to nine months in jail and three years probation for assaulting lesbian Muni bus driver Sami Sparks.

San Francisco's **Human Rights Commission** voted to reject the advice of its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee, which had urged the HRC to oppose the city's new sex-club regulations.

Under clear skies and with much revelry, some half-a-million people took part in the **27th Annual San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration**. Later in the month, Pride Celebration Committee President **Deborah Oakley-Melvin** announced the appointment of **Teddy Valentine Henry Witherington** as the first executive director of the Pride Parade. Witherington, was the festival director of London's Pride Trust.

The **Names Project** revised its budget from \$5.2 million to \$4.5 million, and cut its staff from 51 to 42. Executive Director **Anthony Turney**, whose salary stood at \$88,000 for the 1994-95 fiscal year, said he and all the remaining staff went without merit raises this year.

In a major victory for free speech advocates, the Supreme Court unanimously struck down the Communications Decency Act, which had restricted the transmission of sexually explicit words and images over the Internet.

July

Supervisor **Susan Leal** was named chair of the Board of Supervisor's Finance Committee. In that role, she would play a major role in reallocating more than \$10 million in city funding to services such as condom distribution in bars, AIDS housing, and the planned gay community center.

The fight between the **Women's Building** and its tenacious tenant, the **Dovre Club**, went to trial. Digging its heels in, the Irish bar sought to avoid eviction, but the Women's Building insisted the bar close so that the building could be earthquake retrofitted as required by law.

San Franciscans went on the alert after learning that fugitive **Andrew Cunanan**, sought by the FBI in connection with the slayings of clothing designer Gianni

Versace and four others across the country, was a frequent visitor to the city before his alleged crime spree. Later in the month, Cunanan committed suicide aboard a houseboat docked in Miami Beach, Florida, not far from where Versace was murdered.

New Leaf, a nonprofit substance-abuse counseling agency, received city funding to the tune of \$286,385 to help it deliver services on demand to substance abusers, particularly gay men addicted to speed.

In a highly visible protest act in the Financial District, **ACT UP/Golden Gate members** crushed boxes of Zantac to demonstrate their anger with Glaxo Wellcome's lax attitude toward developing the promising new AIDS drug 1592.

August

Cruising for sex near the windmills in **Golden Gate Park** became more hazardous for gay men after the *San Francisco Chronicle* mentioned the goings-on there. Harvey Milk Democratic Club President **Jeff Sheehy** said the *Chronicle* article needlessly pitted "gay men against families," and was trying to create a scandal where there is none. Police on mountain bikes regularly patrol the area and cite gay men for violating park rules requiring people to stay on designated pathways.

Police arrested three **ACT UP/Golden Gate** protesters for trespassing at the **Ralph K. Davies Medical Center**. The trio had attempted to block a truck carrying medical records from the offices of the former **Conant Medical Group**, which had been abruptly closed after being bought out by

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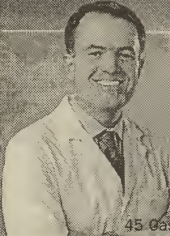
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One more look

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Military recruiters appeared on the City College campus after the school administration gave in to strong-arming by the Department of Defense. The school stood to lose some \$1.7 million in federal financial aid for students if



A kiss-in was called to protest military recruiters at City College.

it didn't allow the men and women in uniforms to recruit students. The college banned recruiters from the school in 1992 in response to the U.S. military's policy of discrimination against gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces.

September

A federal appeals court ruled that gay Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, who successfully challenged his discharge from the

Navy, was entitled to attorneys' fees. The ruling forced the Navy to cough up some \$420,000 to cover Meinhold's expenses in fighting the attempted expulsion, which occurred solely because Meinhold publicly declared himself to be gay.

As many as 20,000 candle-holding San Franciscans, mourning the accidental death of Princess Diana, marched from Castro Street to the British Consulate in solemn commemoration. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence organized the procession, and the Reverend Cecil Williams led a brief service for the departed princess.

The San Francisco Health Commission's budget committee told Catholic Charities in no uncertain terms that if it didn't diversify its board membership to reflect the people it served, including lesbian and gay clients, the city would decline to contract with the agency to provide various mental health services at its Peter Claver House, a residential program for HIV/AIDS clients.

October

San Franciscans intending to take part in the Sex Panic Summit in San Diego in November met at the Metropolitan Community Church to plan their presentations at the event. The Sex Panic movement grew as a response to perceived anti-sex forces within the queer community.

A young male model, whose image graced the glossy cover of youth-oriented, San Francisco-based XY Magazine, was arrested in connection with a variety of robbery, automobile burglary, and parole violation charges. Joshua Puckett, 17, was also being questioned in connection with the murder of 29-year-old Vitaly Poliakov, a gay Russian businessman who had been living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Puckett reportedly claimed to have killed Poliakov during an altercation at

an Orinda house after he woke to find the Russian émigré sexually assaulting him.

After many Castro area residents complained about hugely hung Billy Dolls and penis images appearing in store windows along Castro Street, a community debate erupted over the question of allowing or censoring such displays. Two stores, A Different Light Bookstore and Does Your Father Know?, weathered much criticism over their stands in favor of freedom of expression, but they also received many kudos.

November

On November 4, Supervisor Susan Leal easily won her bid to be the city's new treasurer, ending a campaign that grew more spirited than many predicted.

Also on November 4, military recruiters returned to City College for the first time since they were banned in 1992. Protesters held a kiss-in; most students didn't seem to care about the recruiters, or the men kissing.

Harvey Milk was honored in the plaza bearing his name when a gigantic rainbow flag was unfurled atop a new flagpole. On Thanksgiving, a small crowd walked in silence from Milk's old camera store on Castro Street to Duboce Park, marking the 19th anniversary of the death of Milk and former Mayor George Moscone, both of whom were gunned down by former Supervisor Dan White.

Preservationists trying to save the Fallon Building staged a press conference and picketed the Community Center Project's Founders' Dinner at the Hyatt. The city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board decided to hold another hearing to pursue whether the building should be examined for landmark status.

The Board of Supervisors approved amendments to the landmark domestic partner law.

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1997 IN REVIEW

Gay psychiatrist **Dr. Dean Freeman** was arrested in the Santa Barbara area and brought to San Francisco. He was charged with hacking a former patient-turned-lover with a knife and camping ax more than 20 times in 1994, after the two men had spent the evening taking drugs that Freeman had prescribed to the victim.

Stop AIDS Project announced over 150,000 condoms had been distributed in local bars since the end of September. Only Martuni's objected to having rubbers at the bar.



Tom Ammiano

Supervisor Tom Ammiano said he wants **sunshine on city-funded AIDS groups**, and called for a hearing in early 1998 to determine how ASOs comply with the city's Sunshine Ordinance.

Supes Gavin Newsom and Ammiano disagreed over honoring **retired General Colin Powell** for his work involving volunteerism. Ammiano stopped Newsom's commendation, and blasted Powell's position on gays in the military. Newsom balked at being called "insensitive" to gays in the military, and the next night apologized to Milk Club members.

December

World AIDS Day, December 1, marked the opening of UCSF's new AIDS Research Institute, headed by **Dr. Thomas Coates**. United Nations AIDS Director **Dr. Peter Piot** was the keynote speaker. **ACT UP/East Bay** marked the day with an evening vigil and called on national and state leaders to lift the ban on needle exchange.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case of the **Reverend Eugene Lumpkin Jr.**, whose refusal to denounce anti-gay violence got him fired from the city's Human Rights Commission four years ago.

A civil trial of a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against former KOFY-TV owner **James Gabbert** was postponed until April.

Openly gay **BART Director Tom Radulovich** took the lead on plans to allow PWAs to utilize

a discounted BART/Muni fast pass while traveling in the city.

The **Dovre Club** closed its doors December 9, and the **Women's Building** announced plans to start required renovation work soon.

The city's **Health Services System Board** voted to remove exclusionary language pertaining to sex reassignment surgery from health plans for city employees.

The Board of Supervisors approved an 18-month moratorium on **owner move-in evictions** that landlords had used to oust residents, including PWAs, from their homes so they could jack up rents. The resolution affects seniors, the disabled, and those who have terminal illnesses.

Supervisor **Leland Yee** called for publicly funded housing projects, including HIV/AIDS housing, to have notices posted on property before the projects are approved; his measure died in committee, but may end up on the ballot.

The **American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU)** filed a second civil suit in U.S. District Court challenging the city's domestic partner benefit law. This time, ACLU is representing S.D. Myers, Inc., an Ohio-based firm that "was founded on and tries to adhere to Christian Biblical principles." The suit will probably not be heard until **Federal Judge Claudia Wilken** issues her decision in the ATA lawsuit.

Former San Francisco Emperor **Jerry Coletti** was sentenced to a brief federal facility following his conviction for tax fraud.

The **Transgender Health Project** issued its preliminary findings to the HIV Prevention Planning Council. The group sought to determine HIV/AIDS data among the city's TG population, and completed interviews with 450 participants.

Rosanne Ellen Gervais, a Micmac Indian lesbian from Northern Ontario, was in the city to visit her lover and became the latest victim of a gaybashing aboard a Muni bus, when a gang of almost 20 juveniles and young adults allegedly assaulted her. Police arrested suspects **Lamar D. McCoy** and **Trinette M. Pinson**. Gervais suffered injuries to her head, face, throat, stomach, and groin, and was taken by paramedics to St. Francis Hospital.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan decided to prosecute a PWA on felony charges of growing marijuana. **Victor Thomas (Tom) Evans** had the misfortune of living next to a retired federal judge, who called the cops. Evans said he grew marijuana for two buyers clubs, and did not sell to "healthy people." ▼

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HIVCare is a non-profit, community-based clinical trial program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.

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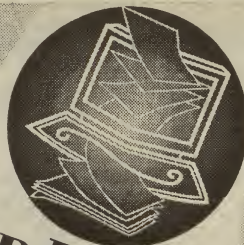
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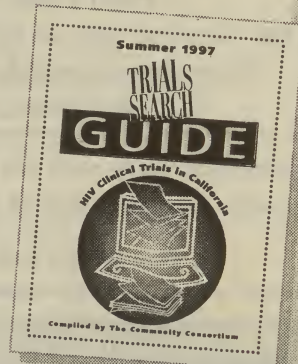


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SFAF

◀ page 1

with AIDS (PWA) because he came to possess a copy of the top-secret document — SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen continues to have staunch supporters within and outside the gay community, and her organization continues to be viewed as a national model in many respects.

What follows is a look at the SFAF during 1997.

Downsize? Forget it

AIDS activists, people involved with community planning for HIV/AIDS services, and others started off the year questioning the size of giant ASOs such as SFAF. Christen's annual salary, then reported at \$134,137, became a focal point of criticism. Paul Wisotzky, the openly gay PWA who chairs SFAF's board of directors, defended Christen's salary and emphasized that the board is responsible for setting the vision and policy for the organization.

"It is not Pat's show," he told the B.A.R. last January. "We take a lot of flak because of her. If we didn't think she was the incredible leader, manager, and administrator that she is, we wouldn't maintain that relationship."

Wisotzky said he was skeptical when he arrived on the board. "I'd heard a lot of stuff about her. Getting to know her has been great. I see her as the brightest and one of the best leaders we have in HIV in the country, probably in the world," he said.

As for SFAF's finances, an independent audit revealed the organization is very stable. For the year ending June 20, 1996, nearly 73 percent of the agency's \$16

million budget was spent on programs, compared to 20.6 percent on fundraising and 6.6 percent on management and general expense allocations. Almost 74 percent of the annual budget came from private giving and other non-government revenue.

Listening slower

In April, about 1,000 people arrived at Fort Mason Center for the 10th annual Leadership Dinner, one of SFAF's bigger fundraising events. To make the evening memorable, Christen's friend Sandra Thurman flew in from the East Coast and spoke to the audience. Thurman had just been named President Clinton's third director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.

Thurman praised the SFAF and cited Christen's accomplishments: she co-wrote the Ryan White CARE Act and has been successful in securing much-sought corporate and foundation dollars, in addition to the millions made at the AIDS Ride and AIDS Walk events.

During her remarks, Christen said people need to be "listening more slowly" when it comes to those living with HIV/AIDS. She issued a challenge to AIDS service providers, activists, and others, that they "accept that others may have needs and desires that are in opposition to our own, and are nevertheless valid and worthy of respect. The SFAF has modified its programs to better meet the divergent needs of those we serve."

"We need only to be committed to genuinely listening to one another — to listening more slowly," said Christen.

Despite Christen's call for people to listen, SFAF's 19 all-volunteer directors remain hard of hearing — board meetings are closed to the public, with invitations being extended only "when appropriate."

AIDS Ride 4

In June, the California AIDS Ride 4 Presented by Tanqueray took 2,476 exhausted riders on a 525-mile San Francisco-to-Los Angeles trek. The June 7 closing ceremony garnered substantial television news coverage and served as a powerful message for people thinking of participating in 1998's event.

Producer Dan Pallotta's multi-million dollar AIDS benefit events were covered in everything from the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* to the *Advocate* and *Out*, as well as a slew of other newspapers. However, Pallotta was livid about press coverage of the controversial 1996 AIDS Ride in Philadelphia, and 1997 Florida AIDS Ride. Both rides brought in considerably less than expected, although AIDS Rides in other cities made more money than ever.

That was the case in San Francisco, where final figures show a total of \$4.9 million raised in receipts and pledges. After expenses, net revenue was reported at \$3.1 million, up from the \$2.5 million net in 1996. The 1997 ride also raised a total of \$4.5 million for the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

SFAF has worked to lower costs, and AIDS Ride 4 showed their efforts were successful; AIDS Ride 4 saw only \$709,607, or 14.38 percent of the total, spent for rider support. In 1996, that figure was 17 percent. The cost of fundraising also decreased, coming in at 36.15 percent of the total revenue. In 1996, that figure was 38.74 percent of the \$4.1 million total. In 1995, the first year SFAF participated, a whopping 46.61 percent of the \$2.1 million total revenue was spent on fundraising.

Christen participated in the ride and spoke with the B.A.R. from a camp near King City on June 2. She said the support provided by Pallotta TeamWorks was sufficient. Other riders consistently reminded people that the event amounted to setting up, tearing down, and moving a "mini city" for seven days.

Registration for the May 31-June 6 California AIDS Ride 5 will probably be full by the end of January. A record number of Bay Area residents and their counterparts in the Southland have already pledged to raise a minimum of \$2,500 each by May 1, and pay a \$45 non-refundable registration fee.

Raise, after raise, after...

Christen had just returned from AIDS Ride 4 when the B.A.R. reported June 12 that her annual salary had doubled in five years. Federal tax forms stated that Christen earned \$74,753 in 1991-92; \$92,429 for 1992-93; \$118,545 for 1993-94; \$131,000 for 1994-95; and \$148,794 for 1995-96. The most recent salary figure makes Christen among the highest paid executives of an ASO in the country.

The revelation was controversial; some felt Christen was unfairly targeted because she's a heterosexual woman, while others pointed to her six-figure salary as a symbol of much of what they felt was wrong with ASOs. The controversy continued throughout 1997.

Given the five-year trend of increases in Christen's salary, Wisotzky was asked in an interview whether her annual pay would top \$200,000 by the year 2000. He commented, "I wouldn't look at the increases as a trend."

Several times he stated that the SFAF board's executive committee looked at market data of other ASOs and healthcare nonprofits, and stressed the board's feeling that Christen's salary should be in line with those paid to directors of similarly-sized nonprofits.

"There is a clear consensus [on the board] in support of Pat. As someone living with AIDS, I can say the board tries to be as sensitive as possible on this issue, but it's not the only concern. Let me say again that there is a clear consensus," said Wisotzky.

A quick survey of national ASOs found that Christen makes more than some and slightly less than others of her counterparts. James Loyce, Jr., executive director of AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA), earned approximately \$150,000 in 1995-96; the agency reported an annual budget of \$20 million. Mark Robinson, executive director of New York City's Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the oldest ASO in the nation, was paid \$144,782; in 1995, GMHC's annual budget was \$28 million.

In a preemptive strike, Christen sent out an e-mail to foundation employees the day before the story came out. "I have no idea how the information will be presented in the story, though if my history with the B.A.R. is any indication," she said in the message, "I expect it will have less than a positive spin."

Ironically, one week later, the board at another large San Francisco ASO voted unanimously to freeze the salaries of its top six administrators. Tom Nolan, Project Open Hand's openly gay executive director, said his annual salary would remain at \$84,684, the amount listed for 1995-96. Open Hand's budget that year was reported as \$7.8 million. Regarding the decision, the B.A.R.'s June 19 editorial stated in part, "It is a great first step, and one we hope will be duplicated across the Bay

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1997 IN REVIEW

Area and throughout America."

Subsequent efforts to ascertain Christen's current salary have been fruitless. Wisotzky and SFAF Director of Communications Derek Gordon rebuffed the most recent request last month.

SFAF on call

The AIDS Foundation's English, Spanish, and Filipino AIDS information and referral hotline expanded beyond Northern California to answer calls from the entire state on July 1. Additionally, the free hotline - (800) 367-AIDS - which is also the official source for AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) information - expanded its hours to 76 a week, answering calls from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

AIDS Walk '97

Initial sign-ups for SFAF's 11th annual AIDS Walk were down from previous years; that sent organizers scrambling in late June. A wave of publicity was unleashed, posters appeared everywhere, public service announcements aired on TV. The July 20 event in Golden Gate Park, produced by Miller Zeichik and Associates, was the most successful ever. More than 25,000 men, women, and children took part, raising an estimated \$3.5 million. SFAF kept \$1.6 million, \$1 million was distributed to 36 community-based organizations in five Bay Area counties, and \$875,000 covered administrative overhead.

SFAF officials said the event was cost-efficient, with 76 cents of every dollar raised going to HIV/AIDS services.

In contrast, AIDS Walk events in other cities saw a drop in participation and in funds raised. Many attributed the reason to a



Pat Christen: "I expect it will have less than a positive spin."

false belief among the public that the AIDS epidemic was slowing.

The transcripts

Shortly after the AIDS Walk success, the *B.A.R.* published an article July 24 about client focus groups the foundation held in April.

While SFAF lauded the focus groups and study in its own *Out-Reach* newsletter, it neglected to mention any of the client dissatisfaction that was clearly evident in more than 300 pages of transcripts. The most frequently mentioned complaint among the 111 people surveyed was about SFAF's December 1996 *HIV Resource Guide*. The transcripts also noted

concerns about high salaries of SFAF administrators and the attitudes of some staff members.

Christen didn't believe the *B.A.R.* had a copy of the transcripts. First she publicly said the documents were forged, and then said they were stolen. AIDS activist Michael Petrelis, who had the transcripts, accused SFAF of lying about the focus group data in *Out-Reach*. SFAF insisted the transcripts are confidential, even though they contain no last names.

After the story broke, Christen directed administrators to reevaluate department plans based on the information from the focus groups. Among the improvements announced were the hiring

of a treatment specialist and establishing space in their office for a treatment resource center staffed by volunteers.

Retaliation?

In September, Petrelis received a letter from the HIV Services Partnership (comprised of SFAF, AIDS Health Project, and Shanti) informing him that his access to HIV/AIDS services was being restricted because he had obtained a copy of the foundation's confidential focus group transcripts. For many, the action was seen as a retaliatory move by Christen; according to sources, she was furious that the transcripts had been made public. (They are now on the Internet, without any client names, at www.accountabilityproject.com.)

Outcry was immediate. The *B.A.R.* editorial September 25 suggested Christen pack her bags; ACT UP/Golden Gate members voted unanimously September 30 for Christen's resignation. The Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Democratic Club and the Log Cabin Gay Republican Club joined with ACT UP/GG in working with Supervisors Tom Ammi and Leslie Katz to address the lack of due process for clients. Members of the groups emphasized the issue wasn't Petrelis, but accountability - or the lack of it.

For Petrelis, the most upsetting aspect was the lack of notification before the partnership made its decision, and the lack of a hearing before the restrictions took effect. He and the partnership agreed to mediation.

Wisotzky said Christen had briefed SFAF's executive committee about the situation over a period of time before Petrelis received the letter. Leaders of the

three agencies refused to discuss specifics of the case, citing "client confidentiality."

On the defensive

By November, after a tumultuous year, SFAF's board decided to speak out through a two-page ad in the November 20 *B.A.R.* Written as an open letter to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, the ad sought to quiet the controversy. "We want you to know the truth about who we are..." it began. "We stand firmly behind Pat Christen ... who has provided extraordinary leadership to the organization and to the fight to end AIDS for more than a decade. We abhor the vicious personal attacks that she has been subjected to by a handful of vocal individuals." The ad unveiled a new slogan, "Fight AIDS, not people fighting AIDS."

Although Christen has had a standing invitation to write a guest opinion piece in the *B.A.R.* since June 1997, and has been assured it would not be editorially altered, she has so far declined the offer. The invitation stands in 1998.

Web weaving

SFAF commemorated World AIDS Day, December 1, by launching a newly expanded and graphically enhanced web site at www.sfaf.org.

Jeff De Lucio-Brock, the foundation's webmaster, promised the site would offer "an incredible spectrum of news you can use to fight HIV/AIDS."

After the *B.A.R.* reported that the website failed to include information about the foundation's board meetings, including times and procedures for those wishing to attend, De Lucio-Brock added the information to the site. ▼

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Fred Hayes
1967 - 1997

title-holder of the Council of Emperors of San Francisco.

Freddie was born in Redwood City in 1967, attended Sierra High School, and got a B.A. in Fashion Design at San Francisco State. While employed at KQED, he won two Emmy awards in 1990 for his work on documentaries.

Fred was in a relationship with Angel Garcia for 12 years. Angel laughingly mentions that they met when Fred called "a wrong number."

Fred (Baby Boy to Angel) will be re-

membered for his quick wit, humor and resiliency in the most challenging situations. He is survived by his lover, Angel Garcia; very close friend, Armando Rawls; father, Robert Hayes; mother, Ce Ann; brothers, Joseph and Robert Jr.; and numerous other family members as well as many friends in the community.

Angel would like to thank the VNH staff for their loving care and special thanks to Armando B. Rawls and Carmen Cordero, who were at Freddie's bedside from day one.

Freddie was able to pass away at home as he requested. Any donations can be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund in Fred's name.

A final quote from Freddie: "I hope I was a first-rate me and not a second-rate someone else."
Loving you Popi.

Steven Allen Perreira

Aug. 15, 1969 - Dec. 10, 1997

Steve Allen Perreira of San Francisco died in Fremont at Washington Hospital of a cerebral hemorrhage on Wednesday, December 10. He was 28 years old.

Born in San Leandro, Mr. Perreira was an engineering student at Columbia Basin College in Washington. He recently returned to the Bay Area to live in San Francisco. He enjoyed arts, crafts and cooking. He excelled in cross-country running in high school.

Mr. Perreira is survived by his mother, Michelle Perrault of Union City, Calif., and his grandparents, Emile Perrault (Lawrence, Mass.), Hazel Perrault (Union City) and Irene Perreira of Hawaii. A memorial service was held at on Wednesday, December 17, at the Chapel of the Chimes Mortuary in Hayward, Calif. Remembrances may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Clifford Wells Reynolds
1921 - 1997

Clifford Wells Reynolds died December 26 in San Francisco. He was born in Virginia in 1921 to Florence Beach Reynolds and Clifford Wells Reynolds Sr.

Mr. Reynolds was a respected Bay Area artist and actor. He was a member of the American Federation of Televi-



sion and Radio Artists and of the Screen Actors Guild. He attended Wayne State University in Michigan and moved to the Bay Area in 1952.

Mr. Reynolds is survived by his companion, Lorne Gay, of the home; his daughter, Cheryl Reynolds-Kenter; her husband, Jerry, both of Missouri; and two grandchildren. No services will be held. Donations may be made in Mr. Reynolds' memory to PAWS.

Daniel J. Roberts

Feb. 18, 1951 - Dec. 29, 1997



Daniel was born in February 1951. He worked for the state of Wisconsin and then for the state of California after moving to San Francisco.

We have always regarded Dan as a handsome, intelligent, caring, compassionate man, who loved us as much as we loved him. His brother told us, "Dan could do anything he would like to do."

Dan graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin. He studied psychology and architecture. He admired Frank Lloyd Wright. Mona and I and the family have always been proud of him.

Dan and I built an 8' by 30' deck on the back of our house in the summer heat when he'd just graduated from Madison West High School. He painted our bedroom in 1982 as a surprise when we were visiting David in Nevada; he liked to do that for us and his many friends. I'll name a few - Bob, Steve, Mike, Allan, Jeff, Christy and Peggy.

I recall helping Linda, David and Daniel to learn to ride bikes and drive our car. Mona helped all three in Scouts and in church work. Dan sang in the church choir.

God bless you, Daniel. Beloved son of Earl and Mona Roberts.

Sunday, January 4, Radiant Light, 10:30 a.m. To remember.

AIDS PATIENTS
WITH GENITAL HERPES

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A leading medical specialist in San Francisco, near UCSF, DR. MARCUS CONANT, is inviting volunteers to participate in a clinical research trial. If you have been diagnosed with AIDS and have recurrent genital or perianal herpes, you may qualify to participate in this trial of a naturally derived investigational drug for the topical treatment of herpes.

Requirements:

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- Current herpes outbreak

All qualified participants will receive free standard antiviral herpes therapy, medical treatment, and laboratory tests. Qualified participants may also be paid up to \$500 at the completion of the study.

For more information please call:

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Tea for two



Mary King and Carol Foley trip the light fantastic at the Dec. 28 Black and White Tea Dance at the Sala Burton Building at the Maritime Museum. The terpsichorean extravaganza was a joint venture of Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) and Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC).

Latino leaders hosting open house for DSCS

by Cynthia Laird

Latino community leaders are coming together to host an open house Wednesday, January 7 that will highlight Dolores Street Community Services' (DSCS) shelter and food programs for Latino homeless persons. DSCS's new Latino Advisory Committee members invite the public to a celebration of *Dia de los Magos* and the open house.

Latino community leaders expected to be on hand include Dr. Sandra Hernandez, director of the San Francisco Foundation; Supervisors Susan Leal and Jose Medina; Jose del Castillo, publisher of *El Mensajero*; John Lira; Victor Marquez; Jose Najjar; Mauricio Vela; Diane Aranda; Miguel Cuevas; Gabriela Espinosa; and Barbara Garcia.

DSCS was founded in 1982 with the ongoing mission to provide housing, sanctuary, and support for people seeking dignity, health, and hope in San Francisco's Mission and Castro neighborhoods. The organization operates the Dolores Housing Program (DHP), which is the largest provider of emergency housing services and meals to San Francisco Latinos. The DHP serves over 2,000 people each year, primarily the working homeless. It is the only such program in the Mission district, said Bob Nelson, DSCS executive director. He added that right now, DHP's bilingual staff

houses 90 men each night in a safe environment that allows for dignity and hope in their lives.

"It has become evident that the working poor, particularly working poor immigrant men, are a population that is rapidly falling through the cracks of society's unraveling safety net," said Raymond Anthony, MSW, chair of the committee. "Due to lack of space, [the] DHP is turning away approximately 200 homeless people a month, a twofold increase over last year. This fall, DHP has seen a sharp increase in these already high numbers. This has made the organization stronger in its determination to provide a place where these people can achieve the American Dream."

The Latino Advisory Committee has been formed to highlight awareness of the problem of homelessness in the Latino community and DSCS's programs for the Latino homeless, and to enlist community support for these services.

"*Dia de los Magos* is a culturally appropriate opportunity for this open house," said Anthony. "It is a time when people come together to celebrate community support." ▼

The open house starts at 5 p.m. at DSCS's administrative offices, 938 Valencia Street. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Joan Curry at (415) 282-6209.

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Torch

by Jim Provenzano

For the New Year, let us announce ourselves, in gyms and schools and on TV; it would seem, from the likes of 24 Hour Nautilus's twerp/employee factor, that it's needed. (In case you missed the story last week, some snippy little twit gymbot got irked because she saw two women hug — repeat, *hug* — there.) So in 1998, let us organize hug-ins and zaps where needed. Let us re-homosexualize athletics.

But to do that, we need to go back to the source of Jock-ism itself: Mt. Olympus.

Last year, whilst furthering my path through the halls of academe, I took a Greek and Roman mythology course, hoping to freshen my limited knowledge of the older deities.

Our instructor, one John Wonder, an admitted heterosexual, attempted to completely circumvent every queer aspect of the myths, with the exception of Narcissus and Hermaphrodite.

When the subject of Zeus's many conquests came up, Professor Wonder kept talking about "the women" in Zeus's mythological love life.

"What about Ganymede?" I asked.

"Oh, yes," the instructor stammered. "Zeus was not beneath homosexuality."

Beneath? Beneath? Thus ensued The Wrath of Achilles.

After a nasty letter-writing vol-

ley with the Classics Department chair (Medusa personified), who proceeded to defend her esteemed employee whilst attacking my admittedly limited knowledge of mythology, she proceeded to avoid the point: The gods were almost all bisexual, but nearly every queer version had been excluded from Wonder's lectures, and from a great many translations that are used worldwide.

What does all this have to do with sports? Well, the Olympics, for one. These are the events that created organized competitive sports as we know it. Many other cultures of the time simply called it "fun."

But the Olympiad is our subject, so let's take a look at the original Olympians, a wholesome crew if ever there was one.

A sort of 12 chosen that predated Christ's clan by a few thousand years, included in this crew were some very special women. Aphrodite was born after Oranos's son cut off his dad's gonads and tossed them into the sea. Aphrodite is one of many examples of male birthing. Why would Oranos's son be so bent on castrating Dad? Probably because where he put it annoyed the boy.

Hera (Juno) is the goddess of the atmosphere and marriage, which would make her a fairly square goddess, except that her husband, Zeus, was the most philandering god in the heavens. Like Zeus, who had a few favorite boys, Hera had a protégé, Iris, who was a fairly gorgeous young girl, and whose myth relates to the rain-

bow, which, of course, is now our symbol. Hmmm.

Hestia (Vesta) exemplifies, on the surface, family values, being the goddess of fire, the hearth, and family. However, her shrine became infamous for its Vestal Virgins, women who swore off men forever. Hmmm.

Like her libidinous brother, Bacchus, Athena sprung out of Zeus after he swallowed their pregnant mother (more family values). Athena became the goddess of war, never boinked a man, and grew a legion of female followers. Hmmm.

Artemis, or Diana of the Wood, also had a similarly Amazonian flock of female man-hating devotees. When one unlucky man spied her frolicking naked in the forest with her girls, Artemis transformed him into a stag, after which he was eaten alive by his own hunting dogs. Hmmm.

Gay men, Greek-style

As for the boys, like any sexist literary culture, their exploits are better documented. Poseidon, god of the sea (and swimmers), was known to have sexual relations with Pelops, who became a king. Hermes (Mercury), the messenger of the gods, is best-known as the naked guy with a winged helmet. I don't have any actual stories of Hermes boinking guys, but anyone who is known in the collec-

tive memory of art and culture as such a homoerotic figure is gay by default. So there.

Hermes was also a sort of FedEx guy who brought the dead to his brother Hades, who ruled the underworld. Hades ran Hell's guest list, a faggy position if ever there was one. My studies of Hephaestus (Vulcan) and Ares (Mars) lack actual boy-love proof, with the exception of being artsy and dressing in butch drag.

The best-known homos of the Olympians are Zeus and Apollo. Big Daddy Zeus not only kidnapped and raped the beautiful Ganymede, making him the best-kept boy on Olympus, but he also boinked just about anyone or thing he could capture.

Lastly, we have the queer favorite, Apollo. Not only was he gorgeous, musically inclined, and horny, but he lost in love no less than six times. While chasing after Daphne, she turned into a tree to spare her virginity. No wonder he turned gay.

The only three of Apollo's boys I found mentioned in my research were Branchos, Claros, and the more popularly known Hyacinthus. It was Hyacinthus's tragic death by discus that led to athletic games in the beautiful boy's honor. Some versions credit the gods' wind as shifting the discus to hit Hyacinthus's head, whereupon his spurting blood became remembered through the flower, hyacinth. Other versions blame Zephyrus, a jealous guy whose name later became known for whipping winds and poorly marketed cars.

The point is, these were, and continue to be, gay myths. If anyone doubts that Apollo did fuck Hyacinth, either mythologically or actually, by saying, "Prove that they did," my response is, "Prove that they didn't."

Does the Olympic Committee,

a secret cabal of barely breathing humans, admit to this? No. Do sportscasters and sportswriters, when pathetically attempting poetic descriptions in their play-by-play, admit this? No. (They're too busy getting women to bring the men into the hotel room, and the panties, Marv. How sweeteeeee!)

Athletic supporters

It is time for the Olympics to be recognized for what they are: rooted in homosexuality, developed by homosexuals, and furthered by homosexuals.

To call the Gay Games the Gay Olympics is wrong merely because it is redundant.

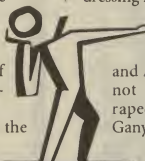
Over the next 30 weeks, I'll be introducing you to some new, or reincarnated, heroes, people who are already out, thank you very much. We'll be showcasing as many sports as possible. Get to know your local athletes. Support them any way you can. I expect them all to get corporate sponsors from a few of our benefactorily-inclined readers. I should like to hope that perhaps Speedo, or Nike, or MetRx do more than throw \$20 invasion parties, but donate cold hard cash.

Let us hope some of these Gay Corps, which all owe us their existence as successful businesses, remember to sponsor actual athletes, as opposed to X & K-drugged cocktail parties, and drinking binge cocktail hours attached to them.

Let us also hope that the tourist boards and airlines and clothing manufacturers and hoteliers who are making millions of dollars and deutschemarks and lire and pesos and yen give something back to us all besides a bill.

Let our athletes get big and strong and emerge victorious, but not too victorious, or it'll be construed as an imperialist invasion of hypermasculine capitalist values on a refined and advanced, yet less aggressive, culture.

See you next year. ▼



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AMSTERDAM 1998

Gay Games Amsterdam 1998's Opening and Closing Ceremonies

by Emma van Zalinge

These ceremonies will be gigantic celebrations" is a promise made by Gemma van Zeveren. On behalf of television production company IDTV, she is coordinating the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, which will be held on August 1 and 8, respectively. The scene of the action: the Amsterdam Arena, Amsterdam's impressive Stadium. The first draft is ready, and when one of these days a director is recruited, the final plans will take shape.

A number of items are fixed, such as the parade of all the participants; an opening ceremony as never before; a moment to reflect on HIV/AIDS; a speech by Mr. Schelto Patijn, Mayor of Amsterdam; and the official transfer of the Gay Games Flag to Sydney, host town for the Games in 2002. The hymn, especially made for the occasion, will be sung by the largest gay choir in history, a united project of all choirs participating in the Choir Festival. Which artists will perform is not yet decided on, but Dutch torchbearer and musical star Mathilde Santing will perform. At the moment, the organizers are looking for about 500 extras who are willing and enthusiastic to take part in this mega-performance.

"Especially the Closing has to be one huge party. The roof will come down!" according to van Zeveren. There will be a more detailed article on these festivities in the January issue of *Inzet*, the Dutch volunteer magazine for Gay Games Amsterdam.

Tickets can be bought by fax or by telephone from Gay Games Ticket Center. From the United States, dial 1-31-20-4200-200 (remember, the time in Amsterdam is nine hours later than in San Francisco), or fax: 1-31-20-622-9011. ▼

NATIONAL NEWS

President Clinton confounds expectation by seeking AIDS funding boost

United Press International

The White House said President Clinton is planning a major increase in next year's funding request for programs for people with HIV.

White House officials said the increase aims primarily to help patients afford medically promising protease inhibitors, which can cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year per person.

Deputy press secretary Joe Lockhart said the president's request for the coming fiscal year

will include at least \$385 million to help patients afford the recently developed medications.

The figure represents a 35 percent increase from the \$285 million appropriated in the current fiscal year, and \$167 million last year.

The plan follows suggestions last April by Vice President Al Gore that Clinton would try to expand Medicaid to cover people infected with the AIDS-causing virus, and the administration's subsequent decision that the idea — costing an estimated

\$1.5 billion to \$4.5 billion over five years — would be too expensive.

Current federal rules make patients eligible for Medicaid coverage if they develop AIDS and become disabled. The new drugs, however, often prevent disability, meaning patients often cannot obtain them until they become severely ill.

AIDS activists welcomed the administration's proposed budget increase, but insisted that only the change in Medicaid eligibility would solve the cost problem facing AIDS patients. ▼

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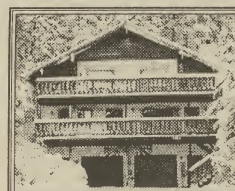
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The following person(s) are doing business
as Cafe Comet, 3141 16th Street, San
Francisco, CA 94103; T. Ching Kung, 17
Jade Place, San Francisco, CA 94131.
This business is conducted by an individual.
Signed T. Ching Kung. This statement was
filed with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on December
9, 1997.

Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 218873**
The following person(s) are doing business
as Aarta International, 2538 Balboa St.,
San Francisco, CA 94121; Rann Shinar,
2538 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA
94121; Assaf Reznik, 2538 Balboa St.,
San Francisco, CA 94121. This business is
conducted by co-partners. Signed Rann
Shinar. This statement was filed with the
County Clerk of the City and County of San
Francisco, CA on November 18, 1997.

Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219323**
The following person(s) are doing business
as Healthcare Support Services, 5608 Mis-
sion St., #1, San Francisco, CA 94112;
Sabina D. Thomas, 27475 Hesperian Blvd.
#29, Hayward, CA 94545; Robert K. Ed-
ward, 10 Feusi Ct., Sacramento, CA
95820. This business is conducted by a
general partnership. Signed Sabrina D.
Thomas. This statement was filed with the
County Clerk of the City and County of San
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**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME-
FILE NO. 199301**
The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business known as
Flying Penguins, 360 Guerrero St. #207,
San Francisco, CA 94103; Alan R.
Rearick, 360 Guerrero St. #207, San
Francisco, CA 94103. This business was
conducted by an individual. Signed Alan
R. Rearick. This statement was filed with
the County Clerk of the City and County of
San Francisco, CA on December 09, 1997.

Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219040**
The following person(s) are doing business
as Mitzi Ngim's Laughing Dog Graphics,
601 4th St. #320, San Francisco, CA
94107; Mitzi Ngim, 601 4th St. #320,
San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is
conducted by an individual. Registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
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the date of November 21, 1997 Signed
Mitzi Ngim. This statement was filed with
the County Clerk of the City and County of
San Francisco, CA on November 25, 1997.

Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219011**
The following person(s) are doing business
as North Beach Beverage, 57 Rosemont
Place, San Francisco, CA 94103; Mel
Ronald Mazzanti, 57 Rosemont Place, San
Francisco, CA 94103. This business is con-
ducted by an individual. Registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the
above fictitious business name or names on
the date of November 24, 1997. Signed
Mel Ronald Mazzanti. This statement was
filed with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on November
24, 1997.

Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219003**
The following person(s) are doing business
as Laptop Lockup, Laptop Guardian, 2075
3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94107;
Quakeproof Inc., 2075 3rd Street, San
Francisco, CA 94107. This business is con-
ducted by a corporation. Registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above fictitious business name or names on
the date of December 1, 1997. Signed Mel
Ronald Mazzanti. This statement was filed
with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on November
24, 1997.

Dec. 18, 24, 31, Jan. 8 1997.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 219466**
The following person(s) are doing business
as JJSF Consulting Services, 737 Post
Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; John
Ryan Johnson, 737 Post Street, San Fran-
cisco, CA 94109. This business is con-
ducted by an individual. Signed John Ryan
Johnson. This statement was filed with
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San Francisco, CA on December 17, 1997.

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Big studio flicks sucked in '97, but local rep houses breathed new life into cinema with adventurous, risky fare.

page 33

Rodney O'Neal Austin revisits his past in 'Now Entering Beaver Creek.'

page 35



Video artist Bill Viola uses complicated tools to deliver simple messages.

page 34



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 28 • No. 1 • 1 January 1998

It's a queer world, isn't it?

The bizarre and the banal converge in 1997

by Robert Julian

Prosperity, low unemployment, crime rates dropping — it's enough to make you run straight to Tijuana for an invigorating dose of poverty, depression, and desperation. In 1997, an overheated economy resulted in a year of ennui; well-heeled yuppies bought real-estate and expensive sport-utility vehicles while I longed for the return of Tonya Harding. This, alas, was not to be. Instead, I watched Nancy Kerrigan, Harding's knee-capped nemesis, skate her wooden butt around the globe looking more horse-like than ever. Only the trailer-trash spectacle of the Paula Jones lawsuit, now slouching toward the Beltway, gives me any hope whatsoever for 1998. According to *The New Yorker*, Jones gave a deposition that described Bill Clinton's penis, at erection, as five-inches long and listing to the right. And they say she plans to call Gennifer Flowers as a character witness. Now that's a trial! But where was I? Weird, weird, weird. Here's my annual dirty dozen — my nominations for the 12 most memorable people, places, or events of last year.

Hiding His Candy — Notorious homophobe Eddie Murphy got stopped by the cops last summer for picking up a transvestite prostitute in Hollywood. Murphy explained he was on his way to his favorite magazine stand and was just being a good Samaritan — helping out a young lady who seemed to be in need. It was 4 a.m. Saturday in the middle of a notorious red-light district, on a weekend when Murphy's wife was out of town. Within days, other she-men came forward to explain that Murphy had picked them up in the past with X-rated intentions. Eddie, baby, I hear The Lady Chablis still needs a date for the Oscars. She, however, is more man than you'll ever be, and more woman than you'll ever have.

Ice Ice Baby — San Jose's Rudy Galindo went from amateur to professional figure-skating in 1997 and took second place at the U.S. Nationals in Cincinnati. This 1996 amateur national champ forced television announcers to search for euphemisms for "swish" in order to describe his performances. On and off the ice, Galindo is the ultimate *girleen* — and we should all be grateful for that. The level of denial in figure-skating regarding the sexual orientation of its male athletes is mind-boggling. Ms. Boitano, do you think no one has noticed the light in your loafers?

Queen of the Night — The one and only Ellen DeGeneres blew every other activist — gay, lesbian, or bisexual — off the map in 1997. She was a little late coming out, but so what? At the end of last season, DeGeneres changed the face of American television, and she continues to up the ante by refusing to

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Clockwise from top left:
The Lady Chablis, Eddie Murphy,
Ellen DeGeneres, and Rudy Galindo.

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Bad company

The best films of '97 could well be the worst in a better year for movies

by Robert Julian

First, the good news. Queers, dykes, and switch-hitters were splashed across movie screens all over America in 1997, and most of the characters transcended stereotype. They were, unfortunately, usually played by allegedly straight actors who gave interviews explaining how *not* horrible same-sex smooching was. These are the very same actors who wouldn't have been caught dead playing a homosexual just a few years ago. Even arch-conservative Tom Selleck portrayed a queer in the silly but entertaining *In & Out*. In fact, it was Selleck's sexiest, most comfortable screen performance ever. Hmmm...

Yet, taken in a larger context, 1997 was a terrible year for film.

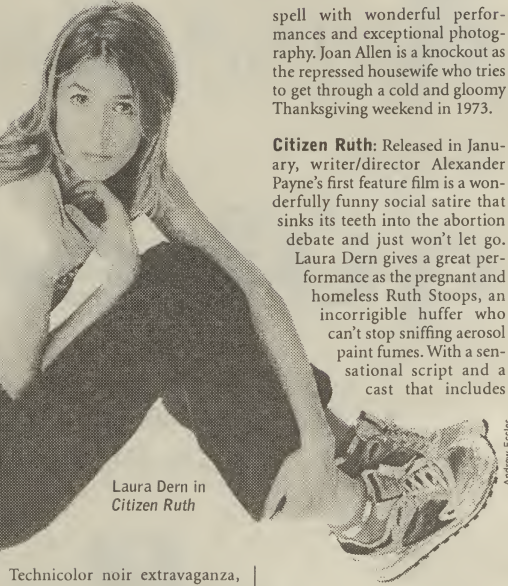
There were so many horrible Hollywood misfires that it would be impossible to whittle the competition down to the ten worst of the year. I won't even try. In fact, some of the films on my ten best list wouldn't have made it in a stronger year.

In order to make my list, a film has to be highly entertaining and must elevate my understanding, either of the human condition or of something I do not fully understand. The following ten films from 1997 did one or more of these things. I have ranked them in descending order, with my favorite at the top of the list.

Family Name: A wonderful and inspiring documentary by Macky Alston about his search into the personal history of his family. Traveling to the Carolinas, the di-

rector discovers two branches to his family tree — one black and one white. Alston, a gay man from Manhattan, creates a touching, heartfelt work that transcends racial and sexual stereotypes. Alston never stoops to emotional manipulation, but I still cried a lot. An undiscovered gem of the 1997 SF Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, *Family Name* has only recently gone into commercial release. I cannot heap enough praise on Macky Alston for creating this miraculous, healing work of cinema. Without question, this is the best film I saw in 1997.

Chasing Amy: For my money, the most provocative film of the year. Writer/director Kevin Smith (*Clerks*) pushes the envelope of romantic comedy with this tale of



Laura Dern in *Citizen Ruth*

Technicolor noir extravaganza, this '50s tale of police corruption is a smart, sexy whodunit with great performances from Kevin Spacey and Guy Pearce as LA cops. Director Curtis Hanson pulls it all off with style, and even gets a de-

spell with wonderful performances and exceptional photography. Joan Allen is a knockout as the repressed housewife who tries to get through a cold and gloomy Thanksgiving weekend in 1973.

Citizen Ruth: Released in January, writer/director Alexander Payne's first feature film is a wonderfully funny social satire that sinks its teeth into the abortion debate and just won't let go. Laura Dern gives a great performance as the pregnant and homeless Ruth Stoops, an incorrigible huffer who can't stop sniffing aerosol paint fumes. With a sensational script and a cast that includes

Mary Kay Place, Swoozie Kurtz, Tippi Hedren, and Burt Reynolds, *Citizen Ruth* is a startlingly original piece of guerrilla comedy.

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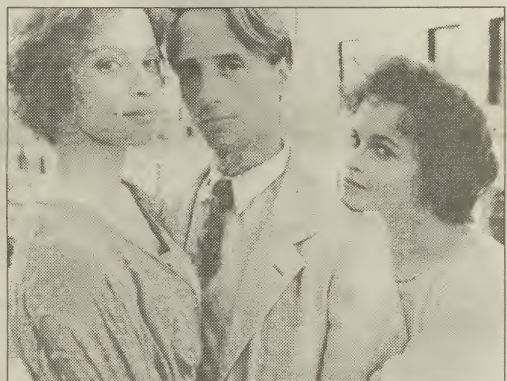
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Joey Lauren Adams in *Chasing Amy*

a predominantly lesbian woman (Joey Lauren Adams) who falls for an immature straight guy (Ben Affleck). Adams gives an Oscar-caliber performance in a film that puts all those thorny relationship issues about sexuality and fidelity right up front, forcing the viewer to deal with them. You'll love this film, or you'll hate it; but be prepared to take a hard look at your assumptions about homo, hetero, and bisexuality. Any film that both radical lesbians and the religious right dislike with equal fervor has to have something going for it. A bravura piece of filmmaking.

LA Confidential: This is a studio picture that does all those things only Hollywood can do, and does them beautifully. A



Alison Elliott, Linus Roache, and Helena Bonham Carter in Iain Softley's *The Wings of the Dove*.

cent performance from Kim Basinger. Los Angeles has never looked better. In film school, they told us great movie-making is about places, faces, and chases. This one has all three — in spades.

Wings of the Dove: Based on Henry James' novel, Iain Softley's film features Helena Bonham Carter and Linus Roache as turn-of-the-century lovers who feel a dying American heiress (Alison Elliott) may be their ticket to happiness and financial independence. Filmed on location in London and Venice, *Wings of the Dove* is so beautiful to watch, it hardly matters what the characters do.

As Good As It Gets: James L. Brooks' quirky tale forces an impoverished waitress, a gay artist, and an obsessive-compulsive novelist to work out their destinies together in Manhattan. Helen Hunt, Greg Kinnear, and Jack Nicholson bring true star quality to their respective roles in this offbeat romance. Like Brooks' previous success, *Broadcast News*, *As Good As It Gets* is a story of three people who try to express love, but do it in the worst possible way. A charmer.

Ma Vie en Rose: A visually beautiful and thought-provoking film by Belgian director Alain Berliner about a young boy who

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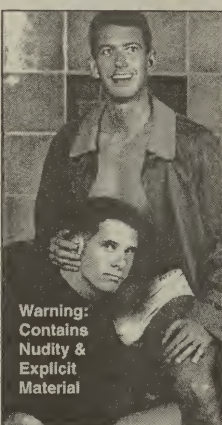
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Queer world

Arts cover

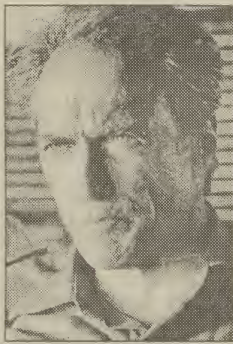
ing to bow to network censors who now want a more restrained (read: celibate) lesbian. Go, girl.

The Jeffrey Dahmer Memorial "Eat-My-Shorts, Please" Award must be shared. Just when convicted rapist Mike Tyson looks like a shoo-in, here comes Marv Albert, with his erection visible through ladies' underwear, forcing Tyson into a split decision. Tyson, on closed-circuit television, tried to turn Evander Holyfield into the black Vincent Van Gogh. Not once, but twice, Tyson chomped down on Holyfield's ear, leaving damage that required surgical correction. As for Marv Albert, when his mistress failed to bring another man to a hotel room for a three-way, Albert chewed on her back until it looked like a hamburger. Any man who appears regularly on national television in a wig that bad is probably capable of anything.

The Emperor's New Clothes Award should belong in perpetuity to Mayor Willie Brown — for vacuous political doublespeak be-

yond the bounds of credibility. Brown, however, was outclassed in 1997 by the exceedingly self-important Aaron Betsky, SFMO-MA's curator of art and architecture. His book, *Queer Space: Architecture and Same-Sex Desire*; his "Icons" exhibit at SFMOMA; as well as his November 30 article on AIDS imagery in the Sunday *New York Times* were miraculously hyperbolic and based solely on the world according to Betsky. Using a plethora of faulty assumptions, Betsky comes up with one hare-brained hypothesis after another, carefully selecting facts and quotes that give his ideas an air of credibility that is totally fraudulent. "The [AIDS] ribbon is art as both advertising and as a political statement. And because of it, we now have a new form of art: an icon of and on the body." Swallow that whopper and all is lost. In the world of thinkers, Betsky is destined to remain, as Addison DeWitt might put it, "too short for that gesture."

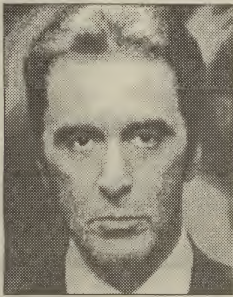
The John Wayne Gacy Award goes to Clint Eastwood for his spectacular dismemberment of John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. The three people who saw Eastwood's



Clint Eastwood

film will need no further explanation.

French Twist — On a hot August night in Paris, at precisely the same age as Marilyn Monroe, Princess Diana made her final exit in a fast car. The royal brood mare who would never be queen instantly became a pop icon, and the world stopped what it was doing for several days to bemoan her passing. A week later, Mother Teresa died and no one noticed, proving once again that a crown of thorns is still no match for a diamond tiara.

Al Pacino in *The Devil's Advocate*

Face/Off — Al Pacino got the worst face-lift of the year. With his perfect row of slightly oversized, capped teeth, Pacino now bears a startling resemblance to a grinning donkey (see *Devil's Advocate*). With his unnatural appearance, Pacino's career is headed straight for the toilet, but at least he and Cher will have a lot to talk about.

The Marjorie Main Memorial Award goes to Jodie Foster, who

Jodie Foster in *Contact*.

once again bared her increasingly banal soul in *Contact*. Absolutely no sparks flew, despite the fact that Foster was cast opposite Matthew McConaughey, one of the sexiest men in Hollywood. Foster gets Oscars for playing gun-toting FBI agents and assaulted waitresses, but she has yet to create a believable onscreen romance with a male co-star. What could it be?

Balls, You Say — A former homosexual, reformed via self-castration, led dozens of otherwise intelligent people to mass suicide in San Diego. The "Heaven's Gate" cult got all dolled-up in tasteful black ensembles (T-shirts, jeans, and tennis shoes), swallowed poison, and went to bed with little travel bags at their feet. They thought *The Mother Ship*, hovering somewhere over La Jolla, was on its way to beam them up to the next level. Former cult members, on leave from the organization due to temporary sanity, expressed regret that the ship had sailed without them. And those are just the facts.


The Fatty Arbuckle Memorial Prize goes to openly gay political deal-maker Jack Davis, who had quite a birthday party in 1997. Live entertainment included the dominatrix who carved her partner's skin with a knife, urinated on her work, and then sodomized

the guy with a bottle of Jack Daniels. West of Twin Peaks, folks were not amused. The obese, physically repulsive Davis explained that he was just the guest of honor, and that others had planned the party and booked the entertainment. Local politicians in attendance immediately claimed they left the party early, or were not there at all. Ah, San Francisco — the city that knows how but can never explain why.

The Bad Seed — Lorena Bobbitt, the woman who, in 1995, cut off her husband's penis and then tossed it on the side of the road as she drove away, got hauled into a Woodbridge, Virginia police station recently for punching out her mother. Bobbitt, who now uses her maiden name (Gallo), lives with her mother, 49-year-old Elvia Gallo. After lovely Lorena was arrested and charged with assault, her mother refused to press charges. Lorena was released on \$750 bail, with a court date pending because Virginia law doesn't allow charges to be dropped in cases of domestic violence. Neighbors allege Elvia was watching morning television when Lorena walked in and started punching her with a closed fist. Could be a tough rap to beat, unless mom was watching *Wheel of Fortune*, in which case no jury in the land would vote to convict. ▼

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Films in 1997

◀ page 30

wants to be a girl. Berliner takes on sex-role stereotypes with a sense of humor and a great deal of insight. Young Ludovic, the adolescent protagonist played by Georges Du Fresne, fights gender identity fascism by simply being himself, and, as a result, the world around him goes nuts. An inspired and original film.

Shall We Dance? A charming, whimsical trifle from Japan about a married businessman (sexy Koji Yakusho) who takes up ballroom dancing to escape his humdrum existence. Director Masayuki Suo delivers a sweet and seductive film that is, on the surface, a Japanese comedy of manners. But in a larger sense, it stands as an enduring tribute to the liberating and inspirational qualities of dance. A heartwarming film.

Good Will Hunting: Hollywood's rebel queer director, Gus Van Sant, goes hetero in a big way with this story of an out-of-con-

Ben Affleck and Matt Damon in Gus Van Sant's *Good Will Hunting*.

trol math prodigy from South Boston. An improbable plot is redeemed by a smart script written by the film's stars Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Van Sant gets good performances from every-

one, and even makes Robin Williams stop acting like a monkey. *Good Will Hunting* is a cross between *The Graduate* and *Little Man Tate*, and it works extremely well. ▼

FILM

Higher and higher

High art and classic trash kept 'em coming at rep cinemas in 1997

by Gary Morris

San Francisco — cutting-edge artistic mecca or cultural backwater? Fans of opera, live theatre, the visual arts, and dance might opt for backwater, with no argument from me, but movie buffs at least can rejoice in what has surely become the most robust film scene in the country. While the threat of new multiplexes crushing their alternative counterparts continues to loom large, venues like the Castro, the Roxie, the Red Vic, Berkeley's PFA, and the SF Cinematheque outdid themselves in '97, reveling in their ability to cover every corner, geographic and aesthetic, of film.



Fassbinder

One of the highlights this year was the Castro/PFA Fassbinder retrospective. Legendary titles like *Martha* and *Whity*, previously known only from brief descriptions in faded film festival catalogs, showed how good this "bad boy" really was. Another revelation was *In a Year of Thirteen Moons*, which features one of the screen's great tragic characters in the suicidal transsexual Elvira (Volker Spengler). While Fassbinder was alive, it was hard to

separate his well-cultivated personal image — slob-despot who abused his actors, and drank and drugged himself to death — from his art. This retrospective showed that the art survived its creator in every sense.

Other cinematic masters were represented with a single restored film in revivals at the Castro and the Roxie. Godard's *Contempt* was previously available only in washed-out dupes; in the new, nearly pristine prints, the director's exploitation of the lonely spaces around the characters finally made sense. Peter Lorre's frenzied child molester in Lang's *M* was more powerful than ever with the sound cleaned up and footage added. Other refurbished classics this year included three of cinema's best films ever, all of which played at the Roxie: Mizoguchi's cosmic tragedy *The Life of Oharu*, Dreyer's transcendent spiritual drama *Ordet*, and Tourneur's literate noir *Out of the Past*.

High culture is all well and good, but what about trash? Yes, cultural sleaze was also well-represented throughout 1997. One of the highlights was the Castro's Fred Halsted evening. This was a crucial event for the fringe-sex crowd, considering that the uncut prints were allegedly unscreenable for legal reasons. In spite of the sweaty fist-fucking scenes, nobody got arrested, and most enjoyed these artifacts of a gaudier era. Camp followers looking for less visceral thrills could find deep satisfaction at the Roxie, with a couple of "grindhouse" bills that included titles like *She Mob*, *She Freak*, *Girl Gang*, and *Teenage Gang Debs*. The Red Vic joined in the fun with Czech surrealist Jan Svankmajer's *Conspirators of Pleasure*. This amusingly weird film is a kind of anti-travelogue, discouraging viewers from visiting a Prague that seems to be overrun

by pathological fetishists.

Another bright event this year, also at the Red Vic, was Karl Cohen's festive *Forbidden Animation* show. Cohen is a local authority on animation censorship, which apparently was happening from the genre's origins in the 1920s. Who knew that a Mickey Mouse cartoon from 1928 would eventually cause the banning of cartoon cows' udders? (Thanks, Karl, for showing us what it means to be a "naked cartoon character.")



Gregory Markopoulos

Moving into more obscure realms, the SF Cinematheque provided a wealth of unusual thrills. If the Fassbinder retro was a rarity, the Cinematheque's revival of the work of 1960s New York gay underground auteur Gregory

Markopoulos was downright miraculous. His films were pulled from circulation years ago, and this tribute gave viewers a chance to reclaim, if briefly, a brilliant innovator in the area of pure cinema. More recently, Aline Mare's "Women Visionaries" show was a much-needed reintroduction of the work of unjustly ignored Surrealist artists Kay Sage and Leonor Fini and writer Colette. Mare has promised to expand this show at some point in the future, and we intend to hold her to it.

All this looking backward — far from 1997, in the case of many of the films above — might imply a dearth of good new movies. And alas, most of the American blockbusters — *Titanic*, *Amistad*, *The Rainmaker*, etc., ad nauseam — were as boring as a budget. Yet there were some new — or at least fairly new — gay features that stood out in a sea of corporate hetero cinema, and they deserve mention. That a film like *Fire* (by Deepa Mehta), whose subject is a pair of Indian lesbians, even exists is cause for cheering. It also happens to be a fine film. *Bugis Street* was another worthy import — the first Singaporean feature film, and a gay one at that. Who can forget its arch queen "Drago" entering a room full of tranny whores screaming, "Hello, beauties! More beauty tips for you!" Other charming queer works included the British film *Boyfriends*, Canada's *Lilies* and *Uncut* (both by

John Greyson), and Denis Langlois's *L'escorte*, a strong ensemble drama that unfortunately has not been seen outside the film festival circuit.



Maggie Cheung in *Irma Vep*.

Established directors like Olivier Assayas and the glorious Wong kar-wai weighed in on the subject of queerness with, respectively, *Irma Vep* and *Happy Together*. The fragile, ultimately unsatisfying relationship between Maggie Cheung and her lesbian couturier in *Irma Vep* gave the film its most bittersweet motif. *Happy Together* is Wong's most approachable film yet; perhaps he was as inspired as the rest of us were by the sight of two gorgeous Hong Kong superstars, Tony Leung and Leslie Cheung, fighting and fucking their way through Argentina. Another fabulous import

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Transcendental TV

New and old merge in the art of video wiz Bill Viola

by Christopher Miles

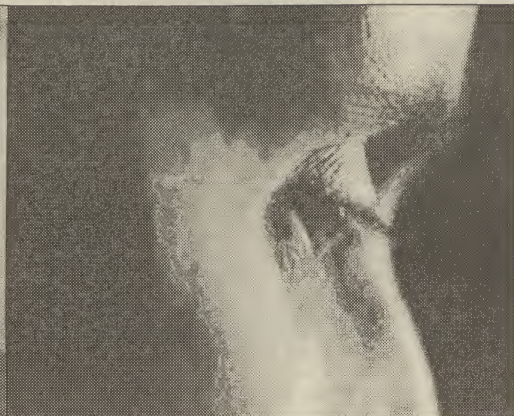
Nineteen-sixty was a big year for electronic media. The number of TV sets in the U.S. hit 85 million. An historic series of televised debates helped a youthful and photogenic John F. Kennedy win the presidential race against Richard M. Nixon. America's first weather satellite allowed armchair meteorologists a new perspective on cloud formations via the evening news. And Charles Van Doren was arrested, along with 12 others, for perjury, because he claimed under oath that the 21 game show that brought him fame and fortune wasn't rigged. Also in 1960, a fifth-grader by the name of William Viola became Captain of the TV Squad at Public School 20 in Queens.

That last fact hasn't found its way into many history books as yet, but it will likely make at least the footnotes of a few art history journals in years to come. Young Viola's job as Captain was to deliver TV sets to classrooms, where he and his fellow students became part of the first generation reared on pixels. It was a simple job, but one laced with prophecy. Thirty-seven years later, Viola is still delivering the goods, only now instead of allocating television sets to viewers, he's serving up the images appearing on them.

"What's exciting to me about artists using video is that we're working with the dominant medium of communication in our culture at this time," reflects Viola, who began tinkering with video in 1970 while a student at the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University. Not



From *Reasons for Knocking at an Empty House*, by Bill Viola.



From *Déserts*, by Bill Viola.

long after that, he took a job as Video Preparator (then a newly coined title) at the Everson Museum in Syracuse, where the emerging artist assisted David A. Ross, who was the first employee of a museum to hold the title Curator of Video Art. With Ross, Viola helped pull off some of the earliest groundbreaking exhibitions of work by major video artists, including Peter Campus and Nam June Paik. He later became involved with an experimental music and sonic sculpture collaborative called Rainforest (a.k.a. Composers Inside Electronics), wherein he linked up with composer and sound innovator David Tudor, with whom he would later collaborate on several seminal video projects. Viola quickly carved a niche for himself in the art scene, and since transplanting

to Long Beach in 1983, he has become something of a guru among Los Angeles artists.

"I was fortunate in 1970 to choose, or be chosen by, a medium that has evolved as my work has evolved," says Viola, who is now enjoying a 25-year major survey exhibition at the LA County Museum (co-organized by David Ross, now Director of the Whitney Museum, and theater director Peter Sellars). What sets Viola apart in a field commonly occupied by amateurish dabblers and gizmo-obsessed techmeisters, however, is his capacity for putting every technical possibility of his medium in the service of realizing deeply personal, often spiritual themes. Viola seems to prefer sticking to the basics — birth, death, the stuff between and beyond — in an art climate

wherein matters of consciousness and the condition called human tend to elicit snickers. "It's funny to be looking back at my work," muses Viola, "because I don't look back much, and when I do, I look to things like the 13th century, to Persian poets and Zen masters."

Viola has produced several now-legendary video projects (among them the *Reverse Television* series, in which TV viewers were confronted with couch potatoes staring back at them from the tube), but the artist is best-known for the by-turns serene and jarring environments he creates by fusing sound, space, light, material, image, and electronic media.

man. Neither image makes it to the other side of the layers intact, but instead merge in the center, where they become blurred and abstract.

It might sound like a lot of smoke and mirrors (in fact, it largely is), but Viola's work communicates experiences and feelings we all share. "We're dealing in things that are already very familiar to people on the technical end," insists the artist. "This is a medium that's already common in theme parks and entertainment centers and shopping malls, so all they have to do is just come with an open mind and open heart and have a direct experience."

What sets Viola apart in a field commonly occupied by gizmo-obsessed techmeisters is his capacity for putting every technical possibility of his medium in the service of realizing deeply personal, often spiritual themes.

Despite all the wizardry that goes into the making of these environments, Viola generally holds to a sparse aesthetic, one that capitalizes on the wonderment that comes with more low-tech, routine aspects of experience and perception.

In a work entitled *He Weeps for You*, for instance, Viola focuses the lens of a live-feed camera through a droplet of water and then projects what the camera sees in the room on an adjacent wall, a simple but brilliant demonstration of the idea that a tiny fragment may serve as a lens for viewing the whole. Such simple elements of visual experience play key roles in other works, too, like *Heaven and Earth*, in which a video monitor displaying a comatose elderly woman faces another monitor bearing the image of an infant boy, the reflection of each face poignantly visible in the glass of the other screen.

Viola makes a little go a long way in *The Veiling*, a piece consisting physically of nothing but seven pieces of scrim cloth suspended from wires, like laundry on seven parallel clotheslines. Video projectors on either end of the room shoot images into the layers of semi-transparent fabric — one of a woman, the other of a

Many viewers will get their first chance at such direct experience of Viola's work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where the survey exhibition debuts before traveling to the Whitney, then overseas, and, finally, to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Despite his position in the LA community, Viola has seldom had his work displayed in the U.S. (he's better known in Europe), and only rarely in California. The LACMA survey makes up for lost time with 15 installations on view in the museum galleries, as well as 25 videos playing in the museum's auditorium (additional works are on view at non-museum sites, including the Main Los Angeles Library downtown). For those who have not experienced Viola's work, this is a great opportunity to get acquainted. Anyone who has ever had a beat in the chest or a wavelength in the head for video art will likely enter Viola's contemplative world and feel right at home. ▼

The Bill Viola exhibition runs through mid-January at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Boulevard. For information, call (213) 857-6000.

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The Queen of Beavercreek

Rodney O'Neal Austin at Center for the Arts

by Steven Jenkins

Taken at face value, Rodney O'Neal Austin's mixed-media exhibition *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio* is a folksy, funny, surprisingly touching homage to the artist's beloved hometown. Using family snapshots, personal diary entries, and kitschy ephemera, Austin plays show-and-tell with his childhood and evokes nostalgic recollections of growing up in the '70s among loving parents, ice storms, and kids who called him sissy for his girlish looks and fey manner. Austin's lively travelogue — the first as artist-in-residence at Center for the Arts — certainly offers viewers a charming remembrance of things past. What truly distinguishes this installation, however, is Austin's clever commentary on our culture's insatiable, post-Warhol obsession with fame.

By divulging intimate details of his family history and playing the role of a star-kissed celebrity who vows never to forget his humble origins as he climbs the art world ladder, Austin deliberately blurs the line between private life and public spectacle. As a savvy, self-styled "gender illusionary" with a penchant for confession and red lipstick, Austin understands that fame — with its tawdry promise of mass adoration, talk-show genuflection, and a good table at Rose Pistola — separates the haves from the have-nots. If you're one of the latter and would like to be one of the former, Austin suggests, all you have to do is perfect the art of shameless self-promotion while flashing a smile as big as your ego.

"As a child I always wanted to be a famous artist," Austin explains as he leads me through his exhibition. "Of course I'm not famous yet, and with this installation I'm making fun of that fact. I'm pretending to be a really self-aggrandizing tyrant. I want to mythologize my own background." Austin does so by treating personal mementos — his



Out on a Limb, 1996, by Rodney O'Neal Austin

grandfather's mailbox, the skeleton of a pet bird, found photographs of Beavercreek residents — as important art-historical artifacts, as if anything and everything belonging to The Famous Artist is worthy of public attention. The odd thing is that, while Austin definitely wants viewers to get the joke, his work possesses an innate sweetness and intelligence that nearly legitimizes his satirical claim to fame.

Actually, Austin is already something of a legend around town. In addition to being the "chick with the great big dick," he's also earned notoriety as the lead singer of the ironically sincere tranny trio Minnie Pearl

Necklace, with whom he performs country chestnuts and obscure gender-fuck tunes. Austin also has exhibited his sexually frank drawings and intricately constructed Memory Dolls at many alternative galleries throughout the city, and he's popped up in cameos in several local indie films ("I always play the lesbian bartender," he says, somewhat chagrined).

Austin landed the Center's artist-in-residence gig with typical aplomb. "When they called me, it was my birthday and I was

in bed with the flu, but they told me it was really important, so I went in to meet with them," Austin recalls. "They sat me down at a long table. They told me they wanted to make me the Center's first artist-in-residence, and I'm like, 'Holy shit,' and as I said it, I spit right in the middle of the table, which was not a good thing. But here I am."

Given the opportunity to develop a large-scale installation, Austin decided to pay tribute to his birthplace. While snooty Californians like to think that Middle America is populated solely by Bible-thumping proselytizers, dimwitted fog-bashers, and inbred hicks with a frightening fondness for firearms, Austin depicts his own little corner of the heartland as a liberal region where he was encouraged to develop his artistic leanings.

"My childhood was like a cross between Huck Finn and Pippi Longstocking," Austin says. "My parents were totally androgynous. Dad washed the dishes and cooked, and Mom worked on the car. When the washing machine broke, they would fix it together. I was an androgynous child as well. People always thought I was a little girl. It's never been a big deal for me. RuPaul once said a great thing — 'We're all born naked. Everything after that is drag.'"

Images of Austin's family members appear throughout the exhibition, and he's written amusing stories about them directly onto the gallery walls. In one passage, Austin describes his own, not-quite-immaculate conception: "Without warning, in May of 1965, during one of their trailer trysts, the rubber broke and all the Trojans sneaked out of their wooden horse and conquered Troy — proof that my parents were not good examples in the use of contraceptives."

In addition to family memorabilia, the exhibition includes faux



Rodney O'Neal Austin

animation cels featuring Austin in ribald cartoon scenes that you won't see on the Disney Channel. An endless 16mm loop of Austin as Miss Beavercreek, twirling in a gown and floor tiara, plays in the gallery, and there's also an interactive photo booth (titled *History in the Making*), in which gallerygoers can have their picture taken against a backdrop of Austin's soon-to-be-famous face. Visitors also can pick up a copy of *Rodney is Her Name!*, Austin's adults-only coloring book, in which he crawls across the floor of Cafe Du Nord and does nasty things with Winnie the Pooh.

Now that he's put Beavercreek on the map, what's next for Austin? "I have big plans," he says. "I'm always conjuring up trouble of some sort." When I remark that it's Rodney's world and the rest of us just live in it, Austin laughs but doesn't completely rule out the possibility. "I never meant to be that self-aggrandizing," he says. "Still, I'd rather it be my world than Jesse Helms's." ▼

Rodney O'Neal Austin: Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio is on view through March 1 at Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. Call (415) 978-2700 for information.

Art attack

'Never Met Picasso'

by Gary Morris

The screenplay for *Never Met Picasso* was supposedly written originally for the Lifetime cable network, home of drippy Danielle Steele-type romances and breathless dramas about menopause. The script was allegedly rejected because it was "too cinematic for television." Why writer-director Stephen Kijak thought Lifetime would be interested in a movie about the "art-fag" scene of Boston's South End circa 1996 is a mystery, but it's also unfortunately indicative of the confusion at the heart of the film. *Never Met Picasso* is an uneasy blend of not-very-funny comedy and not-too-poignant pathos, relieved only occasionally by a lingering close-up of Margot Kidder, or an evocative musical motif (the score is by Throwing Muses' Kristin Hersh).

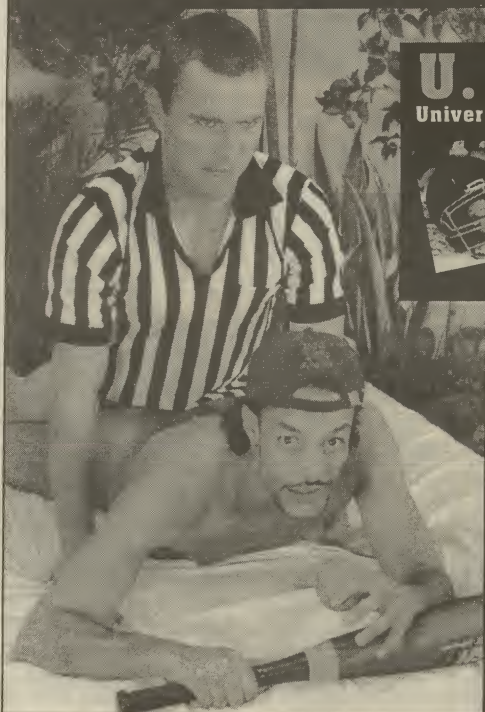
Alexis Arquette, who is fast be-

coming the male Parker Posey, plays Andrew Magnus, a 30-year-old gay painter in the midst of a severe, seemingly unbreakable artistic block. He's vaguely mentored by a gay uncle, Alfred (Alvin Epstein), who only paints trees. His best friend Lucy (Jackie O lookalike Georgia Ragsdale) is also an artist, and like Alfred, she's personally sympathetic to Andrew, but correctly dismisses his art as junk. Lucy's girlfriend Ingrid (Omewenne) is Nico-esque Eurotrash but intriguing; when not pouting over Lucy's sexual capriciousness, she channels dead Surrealist women artists like Kay Sage and Meret Oppenheim, writing out their words on huge rolls of paper as part of an installation.

In the world of this film, art is contagious — even Andrew's mother Genna (Margot Kidder) is a playwright; her latest work is *The Naked Tenor*. (The film has fun satirizing this pompous pro-

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Love's labors

'Happy Anniversary' weighs marital matters

by Richard Dodds

Lou Reda was out of the closet for about a minute when he met the love of his life. Actually, it was on Reda's third day in San Francisco, where he moved at age 26 in order to come out, that he met his lover in a bar in the Castro. That may sound like a dream come true, but Reda would be the first to tell you it hasn't all been perfect. Some of the less ideal moments inspired his new play *Happy Anniversary*, whose message, says Reda, "is that marriage, gay or straight, is hard."

In Reda's play, opening January 8 in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, a gay couple is approaching their fifth anniversary with decidedly different attitudes. Mike is a contented lover, happy to look ahead to more years of the same. Chris, on the other hand, is feeling trapped, and his occasional exploits outside the relationship leave him struggling with guilt.

"Chris is me — or was me," Reda said in a recent interview.

"It's time for him to end his ambivalence about the relationship. With Dan and me, I fought it tooth and nail. I refused to say, 'I love you.'" It took a painful breakup to finally convince Reda to make a commitment. In the play, the future of Chris and Mike's relationship is left open-ended for the audience to figure out.

While Mike is based on Reda's lover, unlike his stage counterpart, Dan never had the retaliatory affair that pushes Chris and Mike's relationship to the brink. "The characters are close to the real people," Reda said, "but not all the events are real. I based those on what I thought might happen."

How does Dan feel about seeing himself depicted on stage? "Well," Reda said, "I've never seen him laugh so much as he did at the staged reading. He'd laugh and then turn to me and say, 'You bitch.' He's been a very good sport about it. He even helped instruct the actor who is playing Mike."

The playwright is both directing and producing the play. The \$6,000 it will cost to mount

Happy Anniversary has come out of his own pocket. "It was being considered at the New Conservatory Theatre, but they said they didn't think it fit in with their mission," Reda said. "The staged reading gave me the courage to do it myself."

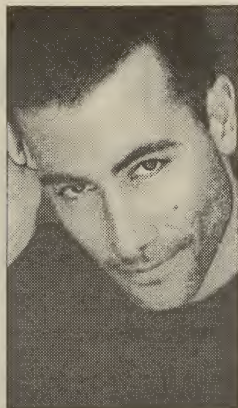
Reda, 33, came late to theater, an occupation that wasn't in line with his father's plans for him. He tried to make all the right moves, which included playing high school football in suburban New York, earning degrees in physics and economics at the University of Pennsylvania, and then landing a job in investment banking. "I knew I was gay since I was 11," he said, "but I tried to change that by dating women and praying a lot."

He had his first gay experience during a vacation in Barcelona, and five months later he was liv-

ing in San Francisco. "I wanted to be away from my family when I came out," he said, "but they've dealt with it really well. My mother and my sister are coming out for the play."

About two years ago, Reda left a corporate job to devote himself full-time to the theater. Acting has been his primary passion, and he's taking a leave of absence from a long-running gig in *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding* at a San Jose theater for the run of *Happy Anniversary*. He's also working on a new play about "a secret gay organization dedicated to righting some wrongs."

It was almost two years ago that Reda's best friend, with whom he made the big move to San Francisco, died in a paragliding accident. "His death energized me not to put anything off," Reda said. "I gave up all my security, ex-



Lou Reda

cept my lover. He gets to come along for the ride." ▼

Happy Anniversary runs January 8-25 in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. For tickets and information, call 861-5079.

Never Met

◀ previous page

duction, which has lines like, "He who loves his legs today will shun his shins tomorrow.") Andrew's estranged father is no exception to the infectious capacities of art; in spite of a boorish personality, he finances the play. Other comers-and-goers include sexy Jerry (Don McKellar), an art historian/dealer who becomes sexually involved with Andrew; and a black queen (identified in the credits as "Poetry Slammer") whose performance piece is pointlessly grafted onto the end of the film.

For a film about the possibly redemptive powers of art, *Never Met Picasso* is woefully unfocused, almost artless. Kijak clutters the screen with the literal raw elements of art — paintings, canvases, and various objects that will eventually become part of an installation — but he has so little feeling for *mise-en-scene* that it's often unclear where a scene is taking place. If the visual style of this film were stronger, this quality might be acceptable in a story about drifting lives, but the atmosphere here isn't powerful enough to stop the viewer from sticking on such details. A movie isn't artful just because its subjects are artists. Recurring structural devices like an overbubbled



Alexis Arquette and Georgia Ragsdale in *Never Met Picasso*.

word-association game between Lucy and Genna, and so there's no engagement with the actor, who simply reads his lines and is instantly forgotten. Others, like the play director and a goofy Irish male model, are simply unmediated stereotypes.

On the other hand, there's Margot Kidder. This always-likable actress is certainly the best thing about *Never Met Picasso*. She's still beautiful, in a slightly ravaged way, and brings a luminous presence to the desultory drama. ▼

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Indie film 1997

◀ page 33

this year was Tsai Ming-liang's *The River*, which brought us into, among many strange spaces, a Taiwanese gay bathhouse.

I'm sure there were some great American features this year, but the only ones that come quickly to mind are *Starship Troopers*, Paul Verhoeven's satire of America's imperial mindset dressed up

as a monster movie, and Ira Sachs's *The Delta*. I have to agree with *Film Comment* on the latter — it's one of the "best" American indies in years. And really gay, too. One of its themes is the tantalizing pleasure of unobtainable flesh, which appears in the form of gorgeous, tortured rich boy Lincoln (Shayne Gray). And isn't that the essence of cinema — an image of beauty and power that is at once larger-than-life and out of reach? ▼

BOOKS

Ten gay books from 1997

A novel year

by Roberto Friedman

Arctic Summer
Best American Gay Fiction 2
The Farewell Symphony
Guide
Night Letters
Part of His Story
The Poetry of Healing
Resentment
The Story of the Night
Whores and Other Feminists

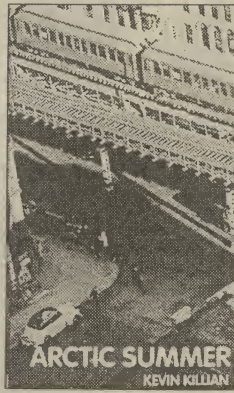
Gay fiction enthusiasts had a full menu of delectables to choose from this year, while works by gay authors in small presses and major publishing houses continued to pile up in the bookstores. Three giants of transgressive literature passed on, as we said goodbye to Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, and Kathy Acker. The first release from David Leavitt since the fiasco of plagiarized passages in *White England Sleeps* was a minor cause célèbre when *Esquire* chickened out of publishing a piece from *Arkansas* (Houghton Mifflin) which hinged on gay sex. Too bad the story, "The Term Paper Artist," was little more than an extended wank on the theme of Leavitt's literary celebrity.

Some of our most successful gay male authors published novels this year, a list topped by the final installment in Edmund White's autobiographical trilogy, *The Farewell Symphony* (Knopf).

Allan (*Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*) Gurganus tackled AIDS, New York City, and the '80s (is it really historical fiction already?) in *Plays Well With Others*



(Knopf). The Irish writer Colm Tóibín impressed with *The Story of the Night* (Holt), a novel in beautifully modulated prose, its narrator awakening to gay sex, intrigue, and politics during the days of military dictatorship in Argentina. Ethan Mordden's *Some Men Are Lookers* (St. Martin's Press) was a witty take on Peter Pan-types, men who are "boys" well into their 30s, and their "living situations" in gay Manhattan. Scott Heim continued his gay teen riff on the horror genre with his second novel, *In Awe* (Harper-Collins).



Execution: Texas: 1987 (St. Martin's Press) by Seattle's D. Stravers Scott, *Arctic Summer* (Hard Candy) by SF's Kevin Killian, and *Guide* (Grove Weidenfeld) by LA's Dennis Cooper proved that the center of gravity for creative storytelling may have moved inexorably to the West Coast. Cooper's new novel seemed unusually intimate and revealing about his themes of sadism and drugged oblivion, while Killian's first novel since *Shy* combined lots of vintage soap opera plot with his usual poetic attention to language.

West Coast writers also featured prominently in the second installment of *Best American Gay Fiction* (Little, Brown), edited by San Francisco's own Brian Boudrey, who chose good pieces by Stephen Beachy, Gary Fisher, Michael Nava, Killian, and Scott, among others. Best is a funny word when applied to art, isn't it? Best, best, best. Black gay writer Thomas Glave's "The Final Inning" was one of the prize-win-

ning stories in the 1997 O. Henry Awards collection (Doubleday). Other interesting entries in a glut of anthologies included *Gay Men at the Millennium* (Tarcher/Putnam), edited by Michael Lowenthal; *Flesh and the Word 4* (Plume), also edited by Lowenthal; the gay Buddhist collection *Queer Dharma* (Gay Sunshine), edited by Winston Leyland; and *Whores and Other Feminists* (Routledge), edited by Jill Nagle, with an excellent essay on male prostitution, "It's Different For Boys," by Julian Marlowe.

Two writers better known for their poetry came out with well-turned prose: Alfred Corn's sweet and melancholy novel *Part of His Story* (Mid-List Press), and Rafael Campo's affecting memoir as an

AIDS physician, *The Poetry of Healing* (Norton), subtitled "A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity and Desire."

And it was a good year for worthies in that perennial category, dead white males, as the story of Oscar Wilde's trials, *Gross Indecency*, triumphed on NY and SF stages; the legend of Truman Capote only grew with George Plimpton's oral biography (Doubleday), in which literary figures do what they do best, dish it up; and even Tennessee Williams was graced with a good production of *Streetcar*. *The Herbert Huncke Reader* (William Morrow and Co.) collected obscure writings of the man who introduced Kerouac to the word 'beat,' and encouraged

next page ►

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Sensual journey

by Deborah Peifer

Hot Ticket: *Tales of Lesbians, Sex and Travel*, edited by Linnea Due; Alyson, \$11.95

Let me begin by saying that J. M. Redmann's short story "Maggie's Hands" is worth the price of this collection, and more. In a scant 16 pages, Redmann introduces Eleanor, tells the story of her meeting and falling in love with Maggie, then tells us of Maggie's death and Eleanor's decision to entertain the possibility of loving again — all in 16 pages! "Maggie's Hands" is as rich and complete as a novel ten times its length. Redmann is the author of the Mickey Knight mysteries, including the Lambda Award-winning *The Intersection of Law and Desire*, so her skill as a writer was never in question. But who knew that she could also write so well in short form? Wow.

As for the rest of this collection, the range in skill varies widely, with the very good seriously outweighing the less good. Linnea Due's skillful choices provide a good look at the state of lesbian writing in 1997, and her decision to cluster these stories around travel provides sufficient connection to make the reading experience coherent, despite variations in style and content.

Bonnie J. Morris' "The Festival Virgin" is a delightful and very hot tale of Ceci's first trip to a women's music festival, and the erotic and spiritual adventure she has there. After experiencing — one-handed perhaps — Trudy and Ceci's lovemaking to *The Song of Songs*, you may wonder, along with other characters in the story, "How come we never



Editor Linnea Due

learned that stuff in Sunday school?" Barbara Wilson's "Salt Water" is the story of a woman who overcomes her Minnesota background when she travels to a Swedish island to meet the enigmatic Monika Diechmann. *Hot Ticket* is a fine collection, one that belongs on any lesbian's list of favorites.

Alas, *Hot Ticket* also includes five stories that involve sado-masochism. If sadism is not your cup of tea, skip "Picking Up Daddy," "Hourglass City," "Seduction.com," "Everybody's Going to Seattle," and "Impulse." ▼

The great debate

by Deborah Peifer

Questioning the Millennium: A Rationalist's Guide to a Precisely Arbitrary Countdown by Stephen Jay Gould; Harmony, \$17.95

Stephen Jay Gould is the author of such illuminating texts as *The Mismeasure of Man* and *The Panda's Thumb*, books that examine the history of scientific thought and the ways in which science is considerably more political and less objective than we might wish. I count on Gould to cut through pseudo-science and quackery to explain the ways in which data are manipulated (or just made up) in order to support a pre-ordained conclusion.

In his latest, *Questioning the Millennium*, Gould considers the silly carryings on about the upcoming calendric event, namely whether or not the new millennium begins in 2000 or 2001. Gould explains in detail why the authoritarians of high culture (*The New York Times* et. al.) who insist that the 20th century began on January 1, 1901 have predicated their understanding of the debate on a mistake made in the sixth century by a monk named Dionysius Exiguus (Dennis the Short). When Dennis created the AD/BC calendar, he started AD with the year one, rather than the year zero, and things have been messed up ever since. At each century mark, the cultural elite explained solemnly that, owing to that missing year zero, the new century began with '01, rather than '00. The worship of popular culture and the undermining of figures of authority in our century make it highly probable that the 21st century, despite the insistence of high culturists, will begin on January 1, 2000.

Gould also discusses the change in the meaning of millennium from its representation as the 1000 years following the second coming to the notion that important things happen in thousand-year intervals. Writing with style, grace, and impeccable science, Gould entertains and enlightens. If you are already sick to death of Millennium Fever, *Questioning the Millennium* is the book for you. ▼

CULTURE

Pratibha Parmar at OutWrite '98

Outwrite '98, the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Writers' Conference, gets underway February 20-22 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference will bring together more than 2,000 writers, editors, book-sellers, artists, agents, and others of a literary bent. Invited participants include Jewelle Gomez, Blanche McCrary Boyd, Mark Doty, Sarah Schulman, Jacqueline Woodson, Christopher Bram, Urvasi Vaid, Rafael Campo, Donna Minkowitz, Thomas Glave, Judith Katz, Michael Lowenthal, Kenny Fries, and many more. The conference will include panels, readings, caucuses, exhibits, videos, and the third annual Visions and Voices Luncheon, which will be followed by a lively discussion on the state of gay and lesbian culture with keynote speakers Craig Lucas, Pratibha Parmar (right), Charles Busch, Mark Doty, and Leslea Newman.

Registration for OutWrite '98 is \$75, and the student rate is \$65. To receive a registration form, or to get more information, call (617) 262-6969, or email: outwrite@bsef.terranet.com, or fax: (617) 267-0852. Discount airfares are available through Yankee Clipper Travel. Call Jim Boin at (800) 624-2664. ▼

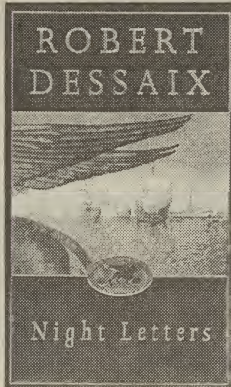


A novel year

◀ previous page

Burroughs to try morphine.

My favorite books were three novels, one short and two long. Australian literary lion Robert Dessaix's *Night Letters* (St. Martin's Press) takes the form of letters written home to his lover by



a young man traveling through Switzerland and Italy after an AIDS diagnosis. He writes from Venice, and the novel resonates with that city's tradition in literature, especially Mann's *Death In Venice*, crossed with the structure and concerns of Dante's *Inferno*.

The tales within tales in Dessaix's novel recall *A Thousand and One Nights* and the metafiction of John Barth; the author himself invokes more unlikely literary precedents, such as the Ripley novels of Patricia Highsmith. Part of what makes the book so unusual is its set of testy footnotes by fictional editor and annotator Igor Miazmov, which contradict or deflate any fanciful exaggerations or literary airs the narrator might affect. (The master of the novel with footnotes was Nabokov, whose *Pale Fire*, a murder mystery unveiled in the notes to a series of cantos, remains unsurpassed.) A contemplation of life, death, heaven and hell, *Night Letters* is a perfect delight.

Slightly more wicked pleasures await the reader of Gary Indiana's *Resentment*, a satire of amoral



American society as reflected by a patricide trial obviously based on the Menendez case. Quite apart from Indiana's trenchant take on legal proceedings and dissection of gay men's sexual proclivities and substance abuse, the book also serves up on a skewer hardly-disguised literary figurines, including Jamaica Kincaid ("Unguetina Caribou"), Kathy Acker delivering a paean to her pussy during a cult reading, and pompous blowhard Dominick Dunne ("Fawbus Kennedy"), whose recently published memoir-as-novel of the O.J. trial, *Another City, Not My Own* (Crown), only serves to underline how skilled Indiana is at this sort of thing, in ways "Fawbus" is not.

For me the "best" gay novel of the year (as if there were only one) was White's *The Farewell Symphony*, the long-awaited finale of the novel cycle begun in 1982 with *A Boy's Own Story* and *The Beautiful Room Is Empty*. *Farewell* falls somewhere between fiction and memoir, a reminiscence of lust and the vicissitudes of a writing career, and an amused look back at youthful naiveté and energy.

In my September interview with him, White likened the book to a Sibelius symphony, saying, "[A] Sibelius symphony feels almost like an act of nature, you can't figure out where it's going and why, and it's very mercurial. That's more the kind of symphony I wrote."

Despite its curtain call title, *The Farewell Symphony* marks the arrival of White's mastery as a novelist, and the promise of further fictions to come. ▼

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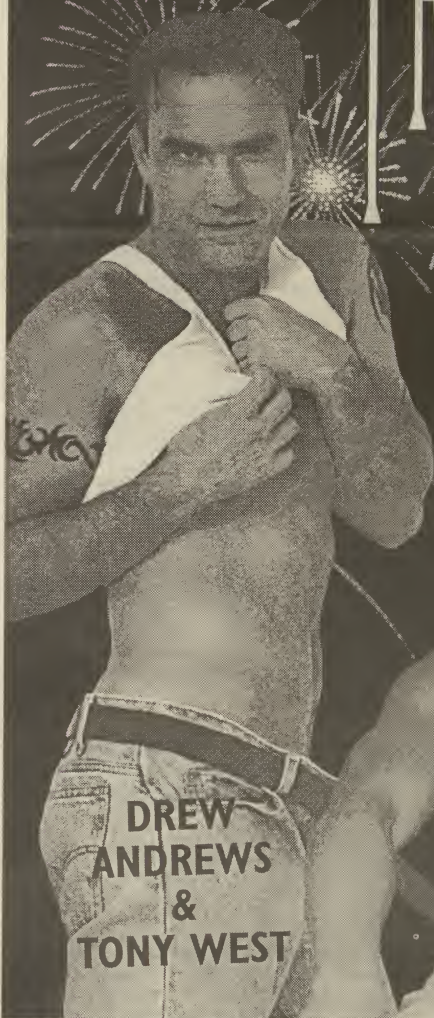
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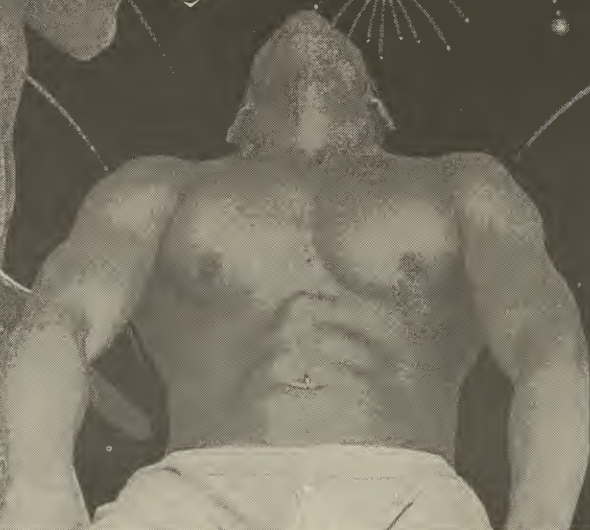
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Tiger by the tail

by Mister Marcus

According to the Lunar Calendar, it is almost 4696, but to us of the modern age, it is 1998 and the Year of the Tiger. Not being a Jack Fertig or Jeanne Dixon, I have no idea what the characteristics may be of Tiger people. All I can say is: we are getting closer and closer to the millennium and all *that* portends. Most are celebrating at the end of 1999, and some on New Year's Eve 2001.

An added bit of icing on the holiday season cake: the nominations for this year's Pantheon of Leather Awards in New Orleans, Feb. 13-16, by *The Leather Journal* were recently made public. Not surprisingly, members of the San Francisco Bay Area's leather community are among the 400-plus nominees. Here are just a few of the Bay Area candidates. Man of the Year: Peter Fiske, Frank Strona, Philip Turner and Gary Virginia. No women from this area are in the Woman of the Year category! In the Readers Choice Men category: Bob Fifeid, Peter Fiske, Daniel Sonnenfeld and Jeff Tucker (with Shan Carr the only woman in that category).

The Forbear Award lists myself, Pat Califia and Alan Selby, while Alameda County Leather Corps, Cal Eagles MC, The 15 Association and the Northern California Leather Association for the Deaf are in the running for Club of the Year. The AIDS Emergency Fund and SM-MILE are up for Nonprofit of the Year. Business of the Year nominees are Stompers, Daddy's Bar, Sandmutopia Guardian, Brush Creek Media and Leather Masters (San Jose).

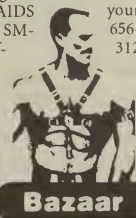
David Carranza, Bear Dog Hoffman, Frank Strona and Philip Turner are all hoping for the Business Person of the Year title, and in the new Couple of the Year category, Philip Turner and Greg Pennington are nominated along with San Jose's Jeff Tucker-Steve Crane-Dan Hughes triad! Also, our own Queen Cougar (now living in Willow Grove, Penn.) is included in this category with her partners, former IMsL Jill Carter and Viola Johnson.

Last year's winners will vote on the nominees, and all is in readiness at the Holiday Inn/Supersol in downtown New Orleans for \$99 a night (800-535-7830).



Wayne Nesbitt, flanked by first runner-up Ken Snowden (left) and second runner-up Mr. Wayne, is the new Mr. D.C. Eagle.

The weekend package for Pantheon is \$85 if you're a nominee or \$99 otherwise. Register with your plastic by calling (213) 656-5073 or faxing (213) 665-3120 or e-mailing tljandc@att.net. Good luck to everyone involved!


Bazaar

Big Apple brouhaha

As if the leather community didn't have enough problems, now comes a brouhaha in New York involving Gay Male S/M Activists (GMSMA) and one Chris Scanlon, who was the group's "official" photographer. He was designated as such to protect the privacy rights of members and participants in GMSMA activities.

For the past 10 months, an expensive lawsuit has been in progress that seeks \$5 million from John Weis, GMSMA chairman, and two board members. The suit, brought by photographer Scanlon, demands that "official" photos be turned over to him. As a result, GMSMA has been obliged to redirect its re-

sources to fight Scanlon; legal expenses (so far) alone are estimated at \$30,000.

GMSMA's John Weis has stated: "We are 100 percent confident that having heard all the evidence in federal court, this lawsuit, filed by disgruntled former board member Chris Scanlon, will be dismissed. We believe the court will support our position that we had the right to use these photographs in a manner consistent with established GMSMA policy."

The case, following three days of testimony in federal court heard by senior U.S. District Judge Constance B. Motley, is not expected to be ruled upon until early spring. In the meantime, GMSMA, which was founded in 1981, is desperate for financial support and is putting out a call for funds. This nonprofit organization of some 500 members is well-known in the leather/SM community for its herculean efforts to promote safe, sane and consensual adult S/M on a social, educational and political level.

Any contributions you care to make would be much appreciated. Donations should be sent to:

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Wednesday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve! It'll be a Moroccan theme at Club Townsend (Pleasuredome and Club Universe) for their celebration featuring the dynamic Crystal Waters in person. Check out the camel pit, but be on hand when \$1,998 is dropped from the ceiling. Duets are \$30/advance or \$35/door, and they open at 2100. Don't miss the only game in town!

Thursday, Jan. 1

Still feel like partying? Jito Presents is throwing the 12-hour Aftershock dance party at 715 Harrison, beginning at 0400 in the morning and going to 1600 in the afternoon! The \$25 advance tickets are available at Body, Undercover and Mainline Gifts - or pay \$30 at the door. Play safe and have a designated driver, but enjoy yourself!

Sunday, Jan. 4

Bare Chest Calendar men auction at the Eagle (see column).

Golden Gate Guards MC beer bust at the Lone

Star Saloon from 1600 to 2000 for only \$6.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets at a SoMa venue at 1930. Tonight's topic: "Meeting People for a Leather Scene." Leather wear encouraged!

Weekend, Jan. 8-11

Choosing Mr./Ms. Santa Clara County Leather on Saturday night (\$8 advance/\$10 door) at 1900 at the Gaslighter, with a victory brunch on Sunday. Before that, there's a meet & greet on Thursday and a Fantasy Show (\$8 advance/\$10 door) at the Gaslighter in Campbell on Friday night. Don't miss the workshops Saturday afternoon, noon to 1700, at the Billy de Frank Center. Get tickets by accessing www.gaslighter.com or calling (408) 866-1408.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Golden Gate Guards MC beer bust at Daddy's, with a \$7 price tag and a 50/50 raffle to benefit Paradigm.

LEATHER SCENE

GMSMA, 332 Bleecker St., No. D23, New York, NY 10014. Checks should be made payable to the GMSMA Defense Fund. Their phone number is (212) 727-9878.

San Francisco stink

Lest anyone think the above is symptomatic only of the East Coast, know that our own community is not without its little problems. Back in November, Ingu Yun (Mr. November on the current Bare Chest Calendar) decided to go one step further in fundraising and produced "Hoe-down '97" at the Galleria, raising some \$4000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

His avid interest in country-western dancing has made him a regular at the Rawhide, the only C/W bar in the city. Almost immediately following his successful fundraiser, the owner of the Rawhide advised Mr. Yun that he was no longer welcome in the bar and banned him from entry on the flimsy excuse that "you requested a song be played that I don't like" (or words to that effect).

Another visit after that confrontation elicited dialogue that ended up with the bar owner threatening to call the police, a threat that never materialized. Mr. Yun hung out in front of the bar and danced on the Rawhide sidewalk with supportive friends. However, to this day, he is banned from the premises!

Mr. Rawhide owner's inflammatory act has served as a clarion call for a large group to gather with Ingu Yun and confront this man *en masse*. What effect this



Leather luminaries: International Mr. Drummer 1997 Jeffrey Adler poses with first runner-up John Brown (left) and second runner-up Troy Taylor, while Drummer Boy Dan Hughes kneels.

will have is uncertain. And while the fervor concerning the Rawhide affair is at full pitch, the organizers have also decided to invade the Loading Dock on Mission because the owner of *that* bar decided he did not want Empress Donna Sachet in drag in his august establishment. The scene at both places could turn ugly, but angry protesters are willing to go to jail should a police presence materialize. Stay tuned!

Flight sight

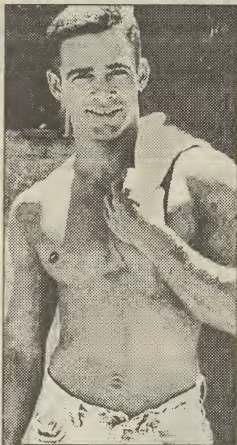
Ah, the marvels of cyberspace! E-mail is flying all over the Internet about the sighting of Mr. Ebony in Leather '97 Daviën Nelson in New Jersey. Without notifying anyone about his move, Daviën has apparently deserted San Francisco and made the Garden State his new home. Ebony event producer Don Thompson claimed that he had "heard" of this move but had not yet been advised on just how "official" it was.

Homo on the range

After tomorrow, the holiday season for most of us will be over, and it will be back to the mundane rituals of everyday life. There were more parties in this town than anyone could count, including the "BTween" one last Saturday night at the Diamond Heights home of Mitch Pierce (former Mr.

Louisiana Leather), his lover Randy and their roommate Johnny. The "usual suspects" weren't at this one, but a fun crowd was on hand to enjoy the gracious (Southern style) hospitality, tons of food and gallons of libations. Mr. Pierce is the proprietor of Leatherworks, and some of his leather creations - all made with TLLC (Tender Leather Loving Care) - are to die for. You'll be hearing more about this group, I guarantee it.

Lots of fun things are heading your way in the coming months, so get some rest after all the partying and gear up for a myriad of leather-oriented events. For example, this coming Sunday, Jan. 4, the last six Bare Chest Calendar men will be auctioned off for dinner dates at the Eagle beer bust, 1500-1800, \$8, food. Lenny Broberg will auction off the photos and hot hunks. This is your chance to win four tickets to the upcoming Elton John concert, complete with dinner and a limo furnished by Regency Limousines. Also, ducats to *Beach Blanket Babylon* and a weekend package certificate to the American Brotherhood Weekend in D.C. next April are up for grabs. Dinners for two at several topnotch SF eateries are in the offing. Don't miss this soirée! Thanks, Jerry Roberts, for all your hard work putting this one together! ▼



Yummy Danny DeLeon was a Bare Chest Calendar man a few years ago. The 1999 calendar contests will take place at the Powerhouse this year.

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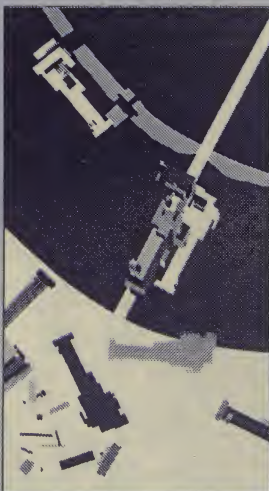
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Malevich's Tektonik by Zaha Hadid

Zoomy

Don't expect traditional floor plans and blueprints in the new architecture exhibition at SF-MOMA, *Constructed Landscapes: Projects by Zaha Hadid*. Iraqi-born British architect Zaha Hadid is at the international cutting edge of deconstructivism and beyond, and her designs are futuristic collages of lines and planes that extrapolate her buildings into hyperspace. Curator of architecture and design Aaron Betsky uses terms like "a zoom and a swoop and a pan" to describe Hadid's visionary work.

The exhibition itself can be enjoyed for its visual oomph quite apart from any grounding in or understanding of architectural principles. Long, multi-paneled paintings depict Hadid's projects from various perspectives, and sometimes re-imagine the urban environments for which they are intended. Such celebrated Hadid creations as her competition-winning plan for the Peak Club in Hong Kong—in which volumes and forms are cantilevered out from the crags and peaks of the surrounding mountains—are revolutionary new takes on familiar problems in construction.

Zaha Hadid acknowledges her debt to Russian Suprematism and Constructivism in such paintings as *Malevich's Tektonik* (1977) for a project in London, and *Tatlin tower and tektonik whirlwind* (1992), the Suprematist icon isometrically "exploded" into a twister of forms as part of that year's *The Great Utopia* exhibition at the Guggenheim.

Computer animations displayed on video monitors demonstrate how Hadid's ingenious "deconstructed" forms evolve from intersecting planes and vectors which threaten to be, but are never quite out of control. Her fantasies of the Zollhof Arts and Media Center in Düsseldorf and a habitable bridge over the Thames are particularly zoomy, swoopy, and groovy. ▼

Constructed Landscapes: Projects by Zaha Hadid continues through March 10, 1998 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St. Call 357-4000 for information.

Fri

The Big Bang

"And other rude noises," the New Pickle Circus's gala. Thru 1/4, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$12-22. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

Christmas with the Crawfords

Artfull Circle Theatre's musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children Christina and Christopher stars Michael Cameron Benbrook, Flynn De Marco, Connie Champagne, more. Wed.-Sat. thru 1/3, call for times. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 621-5455.

Club nZing

Global dance party, DJ Jose Ruiz. \$5. 9pm-2am. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

Comfort and Joy

Jack Heifner's comedy in the Hollywood Hills. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 1/3; no shows 12/31, 1/1. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Death by Dildo

Moe Staiano's concerto for vibrators, part of "Experimental Music and Video." \$6-10. 8pm. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thru 2/1, call for times, prices. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvseat. \$10. 9, 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

It's a Slippery Slope

Spalding Gray's monologue: mid-life crisis, death-defying skiing. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 1/4. \$15-35. ACT Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

John McGivern Live

Monologues: growing up gay in Milwaukee. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 1/9. \$15. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Late Night Live

Comedy talk show; hosts David Mills, Bridget Schwartz. Tonight: Sharon McNight, Fairy Butch, Julia Jackson. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The San Francisco Show

Photographs of the city by Paula Chamlee, Ken Miller, and Jerry Stoll. Thru 1/3. Scott Nichols Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-4641.

SF Games

Friendly card and board games open to all players, free. 7pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission. 679-3678.

Sat

Alaska Gold:

Life on the New Frontier exhibition: photographs and artifacts of the final frontier. Last day. \$3. California Historical Society Museum, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x 14.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect, thru 1/18. \$6. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

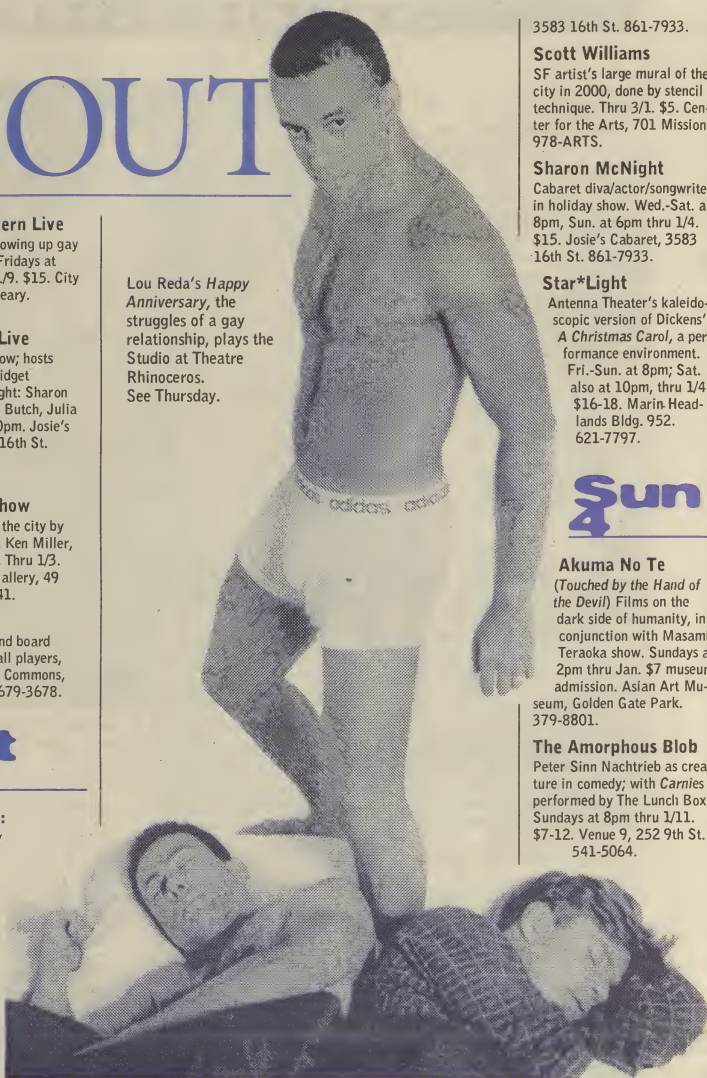
Gay Geeks

Gay, bi, lesbian discussion group for intellectuals, free. 2pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 679-3680.

The Morgan Flagg Collection

Bay Area art: Elmer Bischoff, Joan Brown, Richard

Lou Reda's *Happy Anniversary*, the struggles of a gay relationship, plays the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. See Thursday.



3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Scott Williams

SF artist's large mural of the city in 2000, done by stencil technique. Thru 3/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Sharon McNight

Cabaret diva/actor/songwriter in holiday show. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 6pm thru 1/4. \$15. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Star*Light

Antenna Theater's kaleidoscopic version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, a performance environment. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; Sat. also at 10pm, thru 1/4. \$16-18. Marin Headlands Bldg. 952. 621-7797.

Sun

Akuma No Te

(Touched by the Hand of the Devil) Films on the dark side of humanity, in conjunction with Masami Teraoka show. Sundays at 2pm thru Jan. \$7 museum admission. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

The Amorphous Blob

Peter Sinn Nachtrieb as creature in comedy; with *Carnies* performed by The Lunch Box. Sundays at 8pm thru 1/11. \$7-12. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 541-5064.

Diebenkorn, more. Thru 1/4. \$7. de Young Mem'l Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Open Mic Drag

Female impersonation open mic, hosted by Diamond John, Miss Alexis. \$5. Doors 10pm, show 11pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy returns: Picasso meets Einstein. Thru 1/4, call for times.

Tonight at 8pm. \$34-60. Herbst Theatre, Van Ness at McAllister. 392-4400.

San Francisco Magic

Magicians from the SF Conjurors Club perform. Saturdays at 8pm thru 2/28. \$13 + \$2 min'm. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Shann Carr, Elvira Kurt, Michael Goldfried. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret,

Moon Over Buffalo

TheatreWorks presents farce: 50s touring theatre company. Last performance at 2pm. \$23-31. Luce Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto. (650) 903-6000.

Mostra 97

Six Italian-American Photographers exhibit. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/18. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Tom Ammiano

Supervisor speaks on "San Francisco Politics: Here and Now" to the G40+ Club, free. 2pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin. 552-1997.

Mon

The Barbs

Deborah Colatti's interactive installation in the windows. Center for Visual Art, 713 Washington, Oakland.

Cave Paintings

Recent works by Amber Lynn Brookman. Thru 1/24. Picture, 524 3rd St. 543-4124.

Figurative Sculpture

With paintings and drawings. Richard MacDonald Galleries, 445-A Sutter. 263-5490.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Danny Williams, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Police Pictures:

"The Photograph as Evidence," identifying the criminal, thru 1/20. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

David Mills and Bridget Schwartz host *Late Night Live* at Josie's Cabaret. See Friday.

Sam Russell

Pseudo-religious oil paintings. Thru 1/11. Quetzal, 1234 Polk.

Wired Magazine:

"Selections from the Permanent Collection," printed and electronic versions of magazine layouts, thru 3/10. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tues**Endangered Species:**

"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0935.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. thru 2/15, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitational," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Stewart. 543-8880.

Over the Line

Drawings by J. Martin Rodriguez, Scooter, Tim Jag, more. Thru 1/7. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Philharmonia Baroque

Orchestra Ensembles perform lunchtime concerts, free. Tues. at noon thru 1/27. Giannini Auditorium, Bank of America, 555 California. 495-7445.

Picasso & Villers:

"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams

Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Recovery

Writing workshop for people dealing with recovery, led by playwright George Birimisa. Call for info. Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, 1874 Market. 255-2937.

Sol Lewitt

Wall drawings and photographs by pioneering Conceptualist, thru 2/28. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Yoga for Body & Soul

Free intro class: postures, breathing techniques, meditation. 6:30pm. Dance Ground Keriak, 1805 Divisadero. 824-YOGA.

Wed**Anthony**

Installation by Harrell Fletcher & Jon Rubin: life of Art Institute student Anthony Powers, thru 1/25. Project Space, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Beach Blanket Babylon**Babylon****Musical****revue****extra-****vagan-****za.**

Call for times, ticket prices. Club Fugazi, 678

Beach Blanket Babylon (former

Green St.). 421-4222.

Biohazard

116th Annual Exhibition examines technological constructions, biological breakdowns. Thru 1/25. Walter/McBean Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 749-4588.

Crown Point Press

Thirty-Five Years at Crown Point Press exhibit, thru 1/18. \$7. Palace of the Legion of Honor, 34th Ave. at Clement. 863-3330.

HIV Hatha Yoga

Drop-in class, stress reduction techniques. \$7. 6pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores. 824-9600.

Alan Rath's "Thumper V" is part of Bio-Experiments: Unnatural Specimens at Haines Gallery. See Thursday.

Pacific Rim Sculptors

Group show includes Tim Jag, Mary King, Ann Weber. Reception tonight, 5:30pm. Thru 1/30. SFMOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-4777.

Robert Pinsky

US Poet Laureate speaks. \$16. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Self-Healing

Meir Schneider lectures on "The Body's Power To Heal Itself," free. 6:30pm. Center for Self-Healing, 1718 Taraval. 665-9574.

Tablarsa

Indian percussion quartet in original arrangements and improvisations. \$6-10. 8pm. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Thur**Bio-Experiments:**

"Unnatural Specimens" by Alan Rath, "Natural Specimens" by Rob Craigie. Reception tonight, 5:30pm; thru 2/7. Haines Gallery, 49 Geary. 397-8114.

Black Hose Mountain

Works by Gay Outlaw. Reception tonight, 6pm; thru 2/28. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Happy Anniversary

Lou Reda's play: struggles of a gay relationship. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 1/25. Call for ticket price. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Joek Sturges

New photographs, the innocence of children. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/21. (Lecture: 2/11, 7:30pm, SF CameraWork.) Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

John Altoon

A critical survey retrospective. Reception tonight, 5:30pm. Thru 1/31. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

Shear Madness

Comedy whodunit set in unisex salon. Tues.-Sun. Call for times, prices. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 982-5463.

Tom Carey

Franciscan brother reads poems of erotic spirituality, *Desire*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

TV Neighborhoods

Artist Mark Bennett and Prof. Byron Reeves explore phenomenon of perceiving TV as real life. \$5. 7pm. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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This Week's Dinner Specials

Prime Rib au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish 11.95

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EVERY FRIDAY - 10PM, \$8

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SATURDAY NIGHT GAY COMEDY 10PM, \$10

JAN. 3: SHANN CARR, ELVIRA KURT, MICHAEL GOLDFRIED

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in her new show:

JAN 7-24, WED-SAT, 8PM, \$12-14

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Footloose presents Indian percussion quartet Tablarsa (front to back: Tim Witler, Dan Kennedy, Brad Van Cleave, Jim Santi Owen) at Venue 9. See Wednesday.

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8 thru 25
Written and
Directed
by Lou Reda

Infidelity

Love

Comedy

Happy Anniversary

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For Information and Reservations call: 415-861-5079

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PARTING GLANCES

J-Church outbound 3 Dec.
9:05PM. U: cute, shorter dude (Jewish or Irish?), full beard & stache reading Chron re 49's. Me: sat beside ya trying to compose some thoughts. Would love to do coffee with you, can we? ☎ 9301

Pleasuredome at closing Dec. 7
You brown hair, beard, baseball cap with friends forward left of bar. I the asian with friends by scaffold. We smiled. Would you like to meet? Maybe go dancing? Call ☎ 9302

Matt
We partied for hours with two other guys Friday night 12/5. You wonderful butthole, hot mouth. Let's do it again. Call me, Robert. ☎ 9303

Are you Bill?
You said no at 16th and Sanchez. You, short holding Tower Records bag. I was with a male & female friend. Would like to know your name and more. ☎ 9304

David Folsom Gulch 12/6 1100AM
You pulled up in red Isuzu as I walked in. We were fast, furious, and very hot. I would love longer repeat. If you would too, call me. ☎ 9305

Civil Sex Fri, Nov. 28
I was standing in line ahead of you w/ motorcycle helmet. You barely made it in, ended up in front row. Want to ride w/ me sometime? ☎ 9306

Mike: met at A Different Light 12/3.
Took walk, talked about turn-ons. You: smart, sharp, sexy, underemployed Ph.D., Singaporean-born Chinese. Me: short, trim, goateed, Jewish guy. Still awaiting your call... Randy ☎ 9308

Darrin from Seattle
We met at Pasqua's last Christmas. Bought crackers and went for a walk. I'm the guy with the flannel sheets. Want to get together? Can't stop thinking of you. ☎ 9309

Asian smile @ Sausage Factory
You: cute Asian guy (with woman) who smiled walking by my table (Sausage Factory, Tuesday, 12/9, 9PM) As I (Blond WM) dined with Asian friend. Dinner for just us? ☎ 9405

Chains at Cliff's Variety, Castro Dec. 9th--you: handsome blonde, leather, gray hankie right, buying chain.
Me: dark hair, leather, rebel cap. I'm a gray hankie left. We looked at each other several times. Wow. Please call. ☎ 9404

Justin from Seattle
I followed you around the Castro. Met again later at the beach. Watched the Love Boat com e in. Want to get-together? Can't stop thinking of you. Please call. Josh. ☎ 9402

Dec 7 21st at Eureka
You carrying black bag--me walking little dog--we both turned around a couple of times checking each other out--would love to connect. ☎ 9311

Robert in St. Mary's T-shirt
We met at Hollywood Books in Oakland on Mon 12/8. Kissing and caressing your body was fantastic. Let's meet again for an extended session of cuddling, kissing, and??? In comfort. ☎ 9312

Phil-Friday Dec. 5
Enjoyed meeting you at Berkeley SW around midnight. Wish we had exchanged numbers and not left the next time to chance. Tony ☎ 9313

Mike Blowbuddies 11-22
Played with you in maze, you--nice u dick. Sorry I didn't get your number, would like to play again.--Larry ☎ 9307

Thur 12/11 1PM J-Church
You: cute Asian guy in blue shirt sitting by the window. Me: white guy in red sweatshirt. Got off @ 16th, would like to meet you. ☎ 9401

24th St Just for fun 12/13/97
You said hi, plaid shirt, you said it was crowded, I said yeh. Saw you going into Starbucks, said hi again. ☎ 9403

Sat 12/13 18th at Castro 4PM
You paused to look at Garland. I was being rushed by a friend. Would like to say hello when I'm not hurried. Me: tall wearing blue shirt and goatee. ☎ 9406

Indian Summer, GoldenGateBridge
No one ever treated me so nice. You, blond, dazzling green eyes, me, long brown hair, long face, big lips. Pls. call. ☎ 9407

38AX Express 12/18 about 5:30
You sat at the back of the bus. You moustache and receding hairline. Yes, I looked. Yes, I waved. Yes, I'm interested. ☎ 9501

Sweet Inspirations 12/22 @ 3PM
Me: brown hair, blue eyes wearing blue and sitting with an older friend. You: brown hair, brown eyes in a dark green sweater with a stripe sitting with 2 women. Coffee? ☎ 9502

EmergoRound Commuter
Same BART trains every day, sneaking peeks at you while we're both reading. You're cute. Both shy, tired of unnot talking. Dinner? Drinks at Martuni's? ☎ 9503

Wed. 12-17 Walgreen's--Montgomery St.
You: Very cute dk. haired boy with beautiful eyes that met mine. Me: Tall, sleepy guy buying wrapping paper. Definite heart acceleration. Who are you? ☎ 9504

Tues. morn 12/16 blond beard
Walking on Collingwood, we smiled and turned. Me to my car, you to Castro. I drove past and yelled HI, you smiled and commented on me stopping traffic. Let's meet. ☎ 9505

B at Daddy's Thurs. Nov. 20
Met you at the Constantines Bust. You were into anything, including a 3-way. You were great at it, we went you back in our sty. Call J & J. ☎ 9310

Black Land Rover--Market St.
U: BM w/ great smile returning video. Me: GWM w/ friend. Stayed to say hello, but didn't ask you to dinner as planned. Interested? ☎ 9506

Michael Eros Fri Dec 12
Wonderful experience. You just moved back from DC. Housesitting for sister. Can't get you off my mind. Bods were much alike. ☎ 9507

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Attractive, Adventurous, & Rich
GWM, 40s, 5'8, 177, br/gr, clean-shaven. Extremely successful, happy, humorous, down-to-earth, loves life/people. ISO GWM/GLM for friendship, dating, sex. Be under 30, cute, thin. Me: top. You: bottom. ☎ 9222

Sex slave wanted
GWM, 5'7, masculine top, NS, HIV-, safe. You: HIV-, totally obedient, under 40, willing to give over control, B/D, S/M. My agenda, my way. Will train. ☎ 9314

Single...but looking
5'8, nice swimmers build, gym-toned, smooth, 31, Asian. Down to earth, friendly and sincere. Not hard on the eyes. Prefer men with dark features. No feds, drugs, or smokers. S 9315

Looking for Mr. Moustache
Very handsome GWM, 30, muscular, masculine, down to Earth and good hearted, mostly bottom. Looking for masculine man with moustache who is mostly top and knows how to give and receive real love. ☎ 9316

Gay WM seeks fun
I am GWM 30ish, good lkg, energetic, and deaf seeking to share entertainment plus sport. I love to share laughter and good food. Please no screaming feminine, barfly. If you are reading up to this point, let's go out and see if we can have a blast time! ☎ 9317

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 9318

Cute guy seeks cute guy
26yr cute alternative shy guy tired of clubs seeking others, hanging out, films, music, Beastie Boys, shows, art. Ready for more, 150, br/br, laid back yet adventurous. ☎ 9319

Seeking love truth and a fuck
with an older man. Be affectionate, cultured and literate. Am not politically correct or gym-toned. Adore wine, opera and coupling. GWM, 45, 180#, HIV-, 6'2, well-endowed bottom. ☎ 9320

Answer this one...
If you're serious about relationships. GWM, 38, 5'10, 150#, attractive, HIV-, masculine, stable, focus on career, now ready for fun and love, possible LTR. Versatile, mostly bottom. Seeks similar, 35-45, any race. ☎ 9321

You don't know how good you looked to me.
You, big masculine, bearded I.C.U., evening. Me, lonely, too many cocktails, black robe, gold coin necklace. You, SF Gen. Me out 4 hours. Love. ☎ 9322

How to meet a rich boy to love
I am a good-looking 41 year old gay white male interested in being a good husband to guys with a preference for leather bottoms, too. ☎ 9323

Handsome bottom ISO top 4 LTR
attractive Greek/Hispanic, 5'7, 130#, 28" waist, bright, passionate, 33yo non-fem seeks in-shape manly man who is taller, 32-42, handsome and hung. Call for more details. ☎ 9324

32man seeking man over 65
32years old, 5'10, 163#, loving & affectionate & clean, not into bar. Like ocean, quiet evenings. Seeking loving and romantic man over 65 for LTR. ☎ 9327

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32 yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. ☎ 9408

Eak the Cat
20 GWM, student. Others my age for friendship/sex/love. Understand each other, trust each other. Let's tell the world to go to hell together. Cigarettes are all we need. V.V.LVR. ☎ 9409

Mature bear seeking a cub
GWM, HIV-, 50, hairy, balding bear, 5'11", 210#, uncult seeks younger smaller cub, uncult, big balls, red-heads a plus, for friendship and stimulation. ☎ 9410

A New Year Resolution
Horny and handsome GWM, 40s, (looks 30s), HIV-, 5'9, 165, realistic and romantic. Seeks loving young handsome guy to mate with. ☎ 9411

Need a Dad?
Nice looking 60yo hithy GW masculine 5'8, 180, brE, beard, seeking GW masculine/submissive guy. ☎ 9412

Hairy top in Marin
Clean cut country boy, 45, 5'10, 180#, HIV-, happy and healthy, seeks a buddy 35-45 who is in good shape physically and mentally for shared fun time. ☎ 9413

Tired of too much of nothing
Fill the gap. 27 HM versatile bottom
heavy HIV+ 175# ISO hung versatile
top W/HM 25-35 for cuddling
(talking and the usual stuff lovers do.
☎ 9414

Attractive Chicano guy
26, 5'7, 165#, muscular, stocky
build. Seeks Latins or Whites under
39 for friendship maybe more. I like
movies traveling and nonsmokers.
☎ 9415

Romantic Latino seeks GWM
for LTR. Me, honest, mature, funny,
down to earth, versatile, 37, 5'10,
150#, blk+, HIV+, healthy. Enjoy
touching, r/ies, music, dinner, gym.
You propose. 30-40 ND NS.
☎ 9416

Hi! I'm a regular guy
ready to meet someone cute, sincere,
exciting, but how? Here? I'm 37,
masc, goodlooking, 5'11, 162#,
HIV-, like to work out, read litera-
ture, walk beach and forest. Prefer
smaller, sexually bottom, Asian and
men of color my age or younger. ☎
9417

Step 1-Physical attraction
SBM, 34, 6'200, tan, bearded,
HIV-, solid build, ISO beefy guy w/big
butt, thick tool, 30-40, HIV-. Step
2-compatibility. Good conversation,
mutual respect, lazy weekends. Step
3-...? ☎ 9418

Master knows the mark
of a true slave is open mouth fuck
hole. Desire responsible companion,
H/Wt proportionate, single, HIV-.
Master's commanding, not sadistic,
handsome 42, 5'10, 170#, br/bl,
HIV-. ☎ 9419

Human to human
Willing to open up and risk heartache
for one brief moment of sincerity.
I've had many things but have yet to
find romance. Stats are boundaries.
☎ 9420

Seeking cowboy
ISO laid-back cowboy kind of guy,
nice, in-shape, with interests, HIV-.
about my size, masculine, sense of
humor, late 30's-40's; I'm 5'7, 150,
43, attractive, for dating. ☎ 9421

Holiday warmth
Truly handsome SGW/M, 44yo/6',
185#, skirt-binde/blue eyes, unique
multi-talented, fun, compassionate,
guy's guy seeks SGW/M 24-38yo/s,
goodlooking, playful, unaffected, dark
hair A+. Dating: goal LTR. ☎
9422

In and out of bed friendship
Me: hot Hispanic, 41, 5'11, 165#, mos-
tly top, who works out, in great
shape. You: hot/Cauc, to 45, boyish
tom, in good shape and needs a new
friend. ☎ 9423

Intelligent & muscular
GWM, muscular, 45, prof, financially
secure w/ large home seeking mascu-
line, muscular partner (20-40's) to
articulate and intelligent conversa-
tion, outings, hot sex, travel and gen-
eral misbehavin. Smooth muscular
body a must! ☎ 9325

Brand New Year-Same ol' me
Optimistic, good-natured, healthy poz.
Romantic, creative, versatile, GWM,
45, 6', 185#, gym, balding/buzz,
NS. ISO similar for dating and poss.
LTR. Take a chance. It could be love.
☎ 9508

BIWM seeks LTR
Professional BIWM seeks tall &
husky M with a big heart. I'm 47, 6',
180. Curly brn hair, moustache. Not
into gay scene or games. Serious and
over 40 only. ☎ 9509

Romantic Asian-Filipino
sought by vintage Italian male for
friendship, romantic interludes, cud-
dling, kissing, carressing, leading to
that ultimate moment of truth. Travel
companion to Miami Beach, Florida,
1998. Accommodations provided. ☎
9510

Passionate lover seeks same
Me: 40ish, handsome, hung, good
shape, affectionate top, great kisser,
HIV+, spiritual seeker. You: 30ish,
goodlooking, slim, passionate about
life (& hopefully me). Loves making
love, honest and sincere. ☎ 9326

Girl seeks guy
Pre-op TS, 38, STD-, HIV-, seeks
straight type relationship with gentle-
man whom is caring and loving. Ro-
mantic, LTR minded. ☎ 9511

Upscale suck buddy wanted
Independent tall Southern GWM pro-
fessional, 50, HIV-, cd, would like to
meet another financially secure pro-
fessional, HIV-, cut, for social out-
ings, din-din, oral tastings and friend-
ship. ☎ 9512

Mature WM seeks same for friend
or LTR, I'm 60, 6'2, 200#, easy
going, enjoy quiet dinner with special
person, walks on beach, affectionate
NS. Love making love, honest and
sincere. ☎ 9513

Seeking Asians
GWM, 40, prof, 5'6, 140#, live in
SF, enjoy sports, trips to Reno and
quiet times. In search of Asians under
35yrs who are interested in friendship
and more. ☎ 9514

Looking for friends
Asian male, 38, 140#, 5'7 1/2". om
gppd shape, smooth/dark, new to the
City. Like movies, theatre, dining.
Seeks WM with same interest for
friends and date. ☎ 9515

I'm the gay, white Missy Elliott
GWM, 29, 6'1, 250, brn/hzl, goa-
tee/bear-type. Gd/king, HIV-, intell.,
well-adjusted, slightly misanthropic
Jude Judy fan s/king dates. No
kneads/queens/summies/dummies.
☎ 9516

Very tall romantic sought
Goodlooking, romantic believer-in-
love seeks very tall (6'3"+) partner
for eternity. Me: 36, 6'1", 185#,
kind, funny, + hopeful for true love. I
know you're out there. Please call.
☎ 9517

Slim gd/king hip retired guy
Moustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in
good shape, versatile, HIV-, seeks
similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy.
Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK.
Safe only! ☎ 9518

Let's make it happen
GBM, 37, 6'3", 190#, don't look my
age, act, or taste like 37 either.
Looking for versatile uninhibited WM,
30-40. Take a chance. ☎ 9519

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Fun for the holidays
GWM masculine man with facial and
or boy fur wanted for goodlooking
GWM stach, br/br, 43, mod fur, 5'8,
150, athletic. LTR-blond A+. ☎
9328

Hey boys with big toys and ears
WM very masculine dominant top
seeks a submissive bottom boy with a
hungry hole, big dildos and a craving
for heavy duty regular phone sex. ☎
9329

Seeking discreet lowbuddys
Professional business men group.
Santa Rosa-Sebastopol area-private
club, home, carry plenty of liquid,
cheese, arom to share same. ☎
9330

Whack it off
Do you like to give hand jobs???
GWM, 51, 5'8, 175#, brn/blu,
beard, HIV-, wishes to get jacked off
by another guy. ☎ 9331

Senior GWM
60's, 5'6, 135#, in search of any age
race size to help my commands. Mid-
peninsula. My place. ☎ 9332

Always horny? Get sucked!
Hot mum, tongue takes loads from
slim, trim, well-hung guys. Multiple
loads A+. ☎ 9333

How many ways can I say...
I wanna eat your ass. Late Castro
night sex 12-5am by hot, italian stud,
44, 6', 190, goatee. Can suck ass for
hours. ☎ 9334

Ready to be fucked.
If you are an "experienced" top and
you want to fuck it real...I'm ready
for you. GBM, shaved, goatee, 39,
5'11, 147#, w/a ass that's always
ready 2B fucked. Call now. \$ 9335

The Tao of the showtune
Accompanist/vocal couch sought by
self-proclaimed star for benefit per-
formances. Union scale+prof. oral
exotic massage therapy. ☎ 9337

Cock slave wanted
I want a cock slave who will suck my
dick for hours/days. Also into fucking,
FF, WS, bondage, etc. Have sling,
bondage bar, toys, etc. Take car of
my dick, I'll take care of your needs.
☎ 9338

Big dick ISO even bigger dick
Healthy, bronze, 5'11, 180# poppa
with a true 8"x6" seeks kid with
beer can sized tool. I'm bearded, have
shaved head and gym-toned body.
Call me. ☎ 9520

ISO hot man fuck sex
Very goodlooking GWM 30, bottom
(HIV-neg) wants hot top weight-
height prop. with facial hair to have
wild yet sane get together. I'm all
masculine wanting same. NS, ND,
hairy bodies a plus. Let's just do it.
☎ 9339

Ready to be fucked
If you are an experienced top adn you
want to fuck it raw...I'm ready for
you. GBM, masc, tri, goatee, 39,
5'11, w/a ass that's always hot, wet
and ready to be fucked. Call now. ☎
9340

Voyage to Uranus
Cleancut GLM seeks bottom GWM &
Glm 25-40 into having their clean,
smooth hot rears safely checked out
with toys/non-scat or leather/HIV-
/call for probe launch. ☎ 9341

Afternoon sex buddy wanted
Early evening too. Sex: assmassage-
erotic spanking, me: attractive GWM,
46, 6'5, 250#, footbabe, facial hair.
Oral topman. You: attrac GWM, 18-
35, slim, smooth/moderate body-
hair, nice buns. ☎ 9342

Wanted= Str8 W/M 18-20
In between girlfriends/bi-curious.
Musc, well-built H.S./college foot-
baller, wrestler, lifter, bodybuilder a
plus! Watch hot vids, easy going dude
gives massage+more! Safe, discreet.
Call Ricky now! ☎ 9424

ISO Sonoma county top men
Experienced anal/centered bottom
needs to give it up. FI, GWM mili-
tary-western goodlooks G/W- into
C/BT, NT Dildoes, FF, smoke aroma
safer play in my equipped playroom.
☎ 9425

My New Year's resolution
To respond to all GWM's, 35-45 who
are masc, hairy and willing to get in-
volved with sexy Italian, 40, Hairy,
hung, toppish in a LTR. ☎ 9426

GWM needs hung GBM
I am 6'2, 165#, nice looking, wishes
to service GBM with my deep throat
and bottom for hours. Tell me your
pleasures, I will obey. ☎ 9427

Big men and dildos
GBM, 5'11, 240#, 6' titts, hung
seeks big and heavy-set men into mu-
tual dildo pleasure. Only big and fat
men with big titts, belly and butt. ☎
9428

I want to fill you up!!!
With 8 inches of hard uncut fat meat.
You are a serious bottom who wants
to play with a hairy, blonde, 38 y/o
top. Give a call. ☎ 9429

Kick back and let me
suck your ass and swallow your cock
by hot Italian bottom, 44, 6', 190,
goatee-late night sex 12-5AM, Mon-
Fri. Check it out. ☎ 9430

Santa Rosa area blk tops
FI, experienced GWM bottom ready
for sophisticated, safer winter games
C/BT, NT, FF, Dildoes, smoke, aroma
ok; extraordinarily aggressive head.
☎ 9431

Boy 2 men
Charming Oakland boy, HIV+, 28,
5'7, seeking financially secure, tall,
masculine, clean-cut, attractive man,
30-45. Looking for crazy outgoing,
fun people to enjoy evenings and
weekends. ☎ 9432

All I want for Christmas is
The color of an ivy league school, the
shape of a central american fruit,
produced by a siegfried type, to be
consumed by a pig. ☎ 9433

Just shut up and ride
WM, 32, 5'10", 200#, blond-blue
muscle hum likes wild, versatile
men-anytime. ☎ 9521

Sacramento-deep suck for 130"+
(some say the best) I'm 6'3", 230,
37, attractive, NS. Hung thick and
hard. Healthy light tan complexion.
Friendly. Discreet. Hot talented suck.
Not into scene. Straight bi, okay.
☎ 9522

Piss sensation
My mouth available. My tongue will
lick your piss slit and slowly bring
your balls and bladder to explosive
release. Call now. Same day/night
callback. ☎ 9523

Up my:
Into having my manhole stretched
open and into by your small to
medium size hands. Long sessions of
shared intimacy/versatile from slow
and tender to piston punching. ☎
9524

Hot guy w/toe ring sks barefoot
buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking
East Bay GWM, 5'8, 140#, HIV-
craves reciprocal foot licking,
smelling, caressing, massaging,
naked body closeness, safe J/O fan-
tasies. Light odor, toughened soles
ok. Further friendship welcomed. ☎
9525

Uncut cock wanted
Well-endowed uncut BM looking for
other uncut top/bottoms for oral
fun at your place. BM, Hispanic, or
other men of color a + but not re-
quired. ☎ 9526

New in town and alone in city
Attractive GWM, 38, 5'8", 175#,
grn/bm, ms/gle, healthy HIV+ bot-
tom, nice smile, passionate, adventur-
ous, gym-oeer seeks hot top, <49,
nice body for fun, friend, cycle daddy
a+. ☎ 9527

Oral expert for hung males
BM, 6'1, 195#, cleanshaven, muscu-
lar, masculine. Will service guys 18-
40 with 8" or more. Bi, straight,
okay. ☎ 9528

Multi-load tops wanted
Call me. and fill a bottom up. ☎
9529

Fresh, ringed, mushroomed meat
needs insale, milker 2 get 2 the root
of a big problem. WM, 47, br/br,
buzz stach got, hairy, 6', 160#,
Cruisy jockstrap. Big sweaty hairy
nuts deliver reg feedings 4 so deep
nonstop whimpering worship. ☎
9530

Jewish guys!
I am looking for Jewish guys who are
goodlooking and attractive for fun
and good times. If you are hung a
plus. ☎ 9531

Massage ecstasy
A free exhilarating sexual experience
for masculine young guys with tight
trim builds by straight-acting mascu-
line Scandinavian WM 40. ☎ 9532

Smooth sexy blacks
Sexy GWM, 6', 190#, seeks smooth
black men who like it hot and intense
with a hot white body, mouth and
cock. ☎ 9533

Slow sensual
massage by 54yr. slim fit HIV- guy
for in-shape guys. Lie back naked and
all your body parts will get individual
attention. All ages, races OK. ☎
9534

Who needs big dicks?
The quality cocksucker (like me) uses
his artistry to coax throat-ripping
loads from even modest meat. You'll
both appreciate the difference I bring
to cocksucking. ☎ 9535

Why I'm such a good cocksucker
To make your dick bigger? No, to
make the dick you happen to have
shoot a bigger/better load. Experi-
ence this fundamental difference for
yourself. Try me. ☎ 9536

This tops for you
I'm a serious black top, 40, 170#,
6', 9". Seeks a hot, wet hole. You be
black or Latino, masculine, lean,
nasty. Then let's do it. ☎ 9537

Latin boys needed
Sacramento-area GWM wants young
Latinos, 18-25, HIV+. Me-bottom
boy. You-thin build, uncut, got top.
3-ways a +. ☎ 9538

LESBIAN

Let me hang on your every word
Serenade you-fall all over myself try-
ing. I'm not like all the other soft-
bitches. Try me, I wear lace when I
scream your name. ☎ 9343

FETISHES

Hot pig 44yrs ISO: lean leather
bottoms and daddy/boy, master/slaves
for heavy, WS, BD, oral abuse, urinal
duty, split, slapin, humiliation. Lean
n' leathered, serious only. ☎ 9344

Pig bottom for top fist
Insatiable hole for intense fisting,
WS, leather, dark alleys, outdoors,
showing off, looking for hairy mascu-
line rugged marathon top. ☎ 9345

Feetsherscksthsongs and more
Attractive Latino 31, 190, 5'11, dark
features, Virgo, size 12, HIV-, NS,
would like to meet Latins or Whites
under 35, NS, ND, into foot fetish,
size 11 plus. ☎ 9346

Muscle worship
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of
any size into flexing and having his
muscles worshipped. Like defined bi-
iceps, hot pecs. Asians/blacks a +.
☎ 9347

Tit pig
Huge nipples wanted for hot sessions.
My toys and technique are unsur-
passed. You won't be disappointed.
☎ 9348

Scat top
Normal guy, 36, 6', 165#, inshape,
HIV-, goodlooking, masc., wants
smaller, younger, inshape, boyish,
HIV, guy who eats it all, sucks, gets
fucked, eats messy butt. ☎ 9349

Bondage bottom needs
young creative top who has desire to
put bondage and humiliation togeth-
er. Limits are mostly bound by lack of
imagination, keep my ass exposed in
sling, call. ☎ 9350

Big pigslut 4 raunch top 2 use
GWM, 40, 5'9, 250#, brown/hazel,
goatee, big chest, handsome. Total
pig bottom ISO all dominant, sweaty
men to use my hot holes, age, race,
looks, size unimportant. All an-
swered. ☎ 9351

Be my whore
Dominant, attractive, top, 40, hung
big, seeks cocksucking, buttlicking
bottom-boy to use like a whore. No
\$, just verbal abuse and humiliation.
☎ 9352

Daytime asshole eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎
9353

Seeking FF & dildo bottom
GWM, HIV+, 38yo, 5'10, 210#,
furry, pierced, tattooed. Into full
leather & latex including hoods &
gloves. Into intense butt play, etc.
Seeking bottom with similar interest
for sex, fun and dating. ☎ 9354

Suck piss cock
WM, mid-50's seeks clean, healthy
beer drinker with big uncut cock only
45-55. I lick suck drink. No recipro-
cation no bottoms no daytime. Your
place. ☎ 9355

Farm dirt play
wanted by raunch guy. I am looking
for dirty tricks at the farm. I am
dgkg, 40's, 6'1, 185#, and a very
horny animal. ☎ 9356

East Bay
Nude cut White-latin men wanted
with big clean feet, I would start at
your toes then around the world?
50's hot mouth and tongue. You will
love it. ☎ 9357

Underwear
Turns software to hardware. Let's
strip and exchange underwear, see
what else happens. You know you
love it. Funky ok, but no skid marks.
☎ 9358

The ultimate tit torture
Hogtie and gag me, torture my tits,
jerk me off. Sexy 35yo blue eyes,
clean shaven, in shape. My age or
younger please. ☎ 9359

Big hunk says feed me fist me
Hot, built hunk, 34, with big hole and
hungry mouth into scat, WS, FF. You
be in good shape, a little heavy ok. A
belly is a +. Uncut a +. ☎ 9360

In search of slave
LTR for submissive GWM under 35,
5'10 or less with slim tight body to
include BD, SM, boot worship, dog
training. Must be loyal, obedient and
submissive. Tats, piercings and brains
A+. ☎ 9434

Butt play
32yo/6ft bottom loves laying on a
sling and having my butt played with.
Lookin for guys willing to open my
butt with toys, dildos, and FF. ☎
9435

Seeking Black/Latin top
32yo, 6ft tall, 170#, smooth, 8"
uncut seeks well hung Black/Latin top
to plow my ass. ☎ 9436

Rubbermen
Rubberman with gear for light scenes
through full encapsulation wants to
meet other rubbermen. ☎ 9437

Leather bottom seeks top(s)
Experienced, masculine, good
looks/build seeks firm but sane
"trainer" for bondage and S + M ses-
sions. ☎ 9438

Leather top ISO trim boy-slave
WM, 40's, 6', 160#, will train very
submissive boy in bondage, bootlick-
ing and obedience. You will spend
time hooded, gagged and plugged.
Hairless and pierced a plus. ☎
9439

Need dom Asian tops
WM, 60, masc, 6'1", 215#, total
bottom to be dom by younger Asian.
3-ways, gang bang, M/F couples use
me for your sex slave. Bondage C/BT,
sorry no scat, watersports. ☎ 9539

Diapers?
Were you diapered at night past the
age of seven and still need a daddy to
accept this responsibility of keeping
you dry in diapers and baby panties?
Answer soon with a brief description
of your bedwetting activities and
punishment when you were young.
Only true life situations welcomed.
This strict daddy will baby you like
you were before with the right
amount of discipline as well. Only ba-
bies 35 or under need apply. ☎
9540

Lick & suck my enormous nipples
Also tickle, tease, tweak, twist and
torture them. I'm 49, handsome,
bearish, 6', 265#, trimmed beard,
massive chest, big thighs/belly. You:
love manhandling my huge tits. Mutu-
al ok. ☎ 9541

Hot crotch needs hungry mouth
Hairy, masculine, HIV-, clean, verbal,
little bear daddy with pure top energy
seeks hungry oral expert (or couple)
for long intense sessions of service
and worship. ☎ 9542

FF, tops, bondage
Exp. vers. guy looking for
day/evening partners. Serious only,
no heavy drugs/drinkers. ☎ 9543

COUPLES

Two for one
Lovers seek third for dating, relation-
ship, sex, 6', 45, slender, beard,
mainly top and 6'3", 42, slender,
beard, mainly bottom. Enjoy movies,
dinners, travel. Don't smoke or do
drugs. ☎ 9440

COme with us
HIV+ couple, 41 & 50, fit, seek fit
singles or couples for play. Like
group sex, tits, spanking, sucking,
fucking, open to other possibilities.
HIV+ preferred. ☎ 9544

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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Carmen Miranda, in a typical camp publicity still.

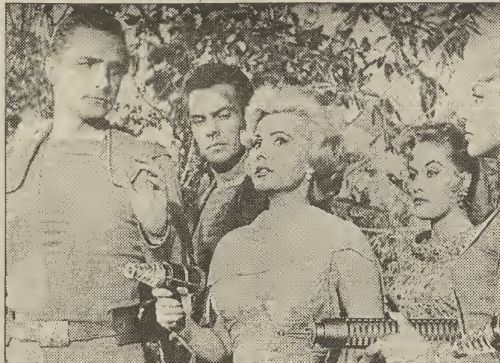
Quantifying camp

by Tavo Amador

High Camp, A Gay Guide to Camp and Cult Film by Paul Roen; Leyland Publications, Volume I, \$15.95; Volume II, \$14.95

The first definition of camp I can recall reading was Susan Sontag's observation in a now-famous essay from the early '60s that camp is something "so bad it's good." This, however, is only part of what Paul Roen means in his two-volume work, *High Camp, A Gay Guide to Camp and Cult Films*. Roen defines film camp as "any brazen triumph of artifice over dramatic substance. A phoniness that glories in itself." He also writes that "camp is funny," with an "ironic discrepancy between results and intentions."

In his short introduction to Volume I (which features a splendid photo of Carmen Miranda on the cover), Roen denies that enjoyment of camp is unique to ho-

Zsa Zsa Gabor as a rebel Venusian in *Queen of Outer Space*.

mosexuals, yet his guide lists films that he says are of "intrinsic appeal" to gays. If all this sounds vague, it is. It's better to look at the films he cites to get his point.

Naturally, any compendium like this is subjective, but many of the film titles you'd expect to see in a book about camp cinema are

listed. For example, Roen includes *Cobra Woman*, which is certainly unintentionally funny, meaning that it meets the "so bad it's good" requirement. Another camp classic is *Autumn Leaves*, a quintessential Joan Crawford vehicle of her late middle-period.

But along with the more obvious selections, Roen tosses in titles that do not easily meet the definition of camp he provides. Take, for example, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, based on Tennessee Williams' novella. While the film makes implicit references to homosexuality, and though many gay men identify with Vivien Leigh's character, Roen is on shaky ground when he trundles out that absurd old saw about Tennessee Williams' heroine really being a gay man (a favorite of homophobic critics of the '50s).

Roen's inclusion of *A Streetcar Named Desire* is equally baffling. He cites Tennessee Williams' masterpiece because he finds Marlon Brando's landmark performance dated and, therefore, campy. I don't think so.

The author also claims that many brilliant comedies, films intended to be funny, are actually camp, including *Some Like It Hot*, because of the drag element, and *All About Eve*, because of Bette Davis' theatrical performance. While these inclusions may seem dubious (there's more than mere artifice operating in both), Roen couldn't be more accurate to include *Sextette*, Mae West's last film (1978), and Bette Davis' *Beyond the Forest*.

The author's definition of cult films as movies seen over and over by fans who often memorize the dialogue is too general. By that definition, *Casablanca* qualifies, yet is missing from this list. Also absent is Orson Welles' *Touch of Evil*, which was a commercial failure at the time of its release in 1958, but today enjoys enormous popularity, if for no other reason than its camp elements, which include Charlton Heston's Mexican accent, Marlene Dietrich as a Tijuana madam, and Mercedes McCambridge as a butch gang leader who watches Janet Leigh get raped.

Both volumes are superbly illustrated, Roen's writing style is lively, and he includes plot summaries as well as discussions of each movie's camp and cult qualities. There is also a helpful index organized by performer's name (it should come as no surprise that Bette Davis has the most entries in Volume I, Joan Crawford in Volume II). The next time you're in the mood for a camp flick, it wouldn't hurt to consult these books before running off to the video store. ▼

The Dungeon



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MUSIC

Together again

Ruth Hastings & Barry Lloyd

by Jim Van Buskirk

For reasons that remain unclear, Ruth Hastings isn't broadcasting the fact that 1997 marks the 25th anniversary of her performing debut, the 20th anniversary of her collaboration with Barry Lloyd, and the 5th anniversary of her opening of the Larkspur Cafe Theatre in Larkspur.

But then, Hastings hardly needs to advertise her celebrity. A versatile and tireless chanteuse, she has performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, her widely varying material celebrating everything from Kurt Weill and Rodgers and Hart to musical themes of World War II, New York, and Paris. Still going strong, Hastings and Lloyd have returned to their first love — the music of Jacques Brel and Edith

Piaf.

I recently caught Hastings and Lloyd's "Brel/Piaf" show at the Larkspur Cafe Theatre, and if there were any lingering doubts about these performers' abilities, they were quickly put to rest. The show was marvelous. With scarce-

her unique ability to put across a song. Barry Lloyd is a more-than-accomplished accompanist. His astute arrangements and sensitive playing provided a strong backbone for this show. Hastings' interpretations, the pair's duets, and Lloyd's several solo turns were all

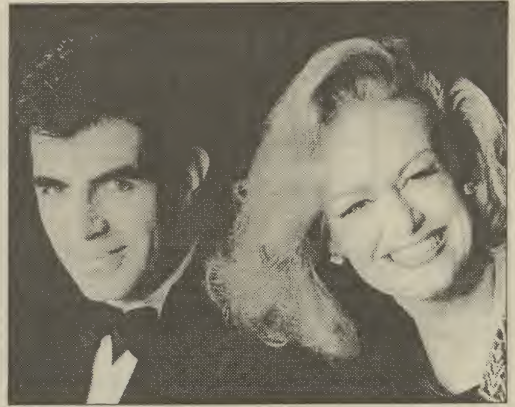
Hastings is an attractive woman whose soulful eyes, toothy smile, and theatrical flair add to her unique ability to put across a song.

ly any patter connecting the numbers, Hastings and Lloyd chose to let the songs speak for themselves, and speak they did.

Hastings is an attractive woman whose soulful eyes, toothy smile, and theatrical flair add to

effective. I would have appreciated a little more intimate rapport with the audience, but this is a small quibble.

I was surprised, too, that more of the show wasn't sung in French. Only Brel's "La Tendresse"

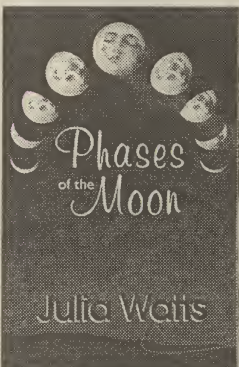


Barry Lloyd and Ruth Hastings

and a snippet of Piaf's "La Vie en Rose" were sung in their original language, as was Lloyd's convincing Flemish "Marieke." Still, Hastings and Lloyd know their way around these numbers, and their respect for the material and love of performing them came across every time.

You can see these two veteran

performers at Piaf's, the sophisticated new San Francisco restaurant-cum-cabaret on Market Street, where they'll be performing "Cabaret Songs for a Winter's Night" through mid-January. The bill includes songs by Coward, Sondheim, Porter, Gershwin and, of course, Brel. You'll have no regrets. ▼



Kentucky woman

by Deborah Peifer

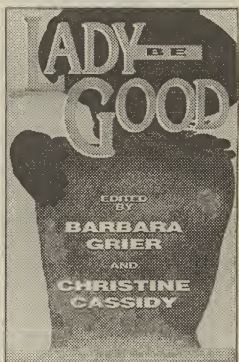
Phases of the Moon by Julia Watts; Naiad, \$11.95

Julia Watts' second Naiad novel, *Phases of the Moon*, is a remarkable piece of fiction that reads like an authentic oral history.

Glenda Mooney is a young woman growing up in the wretched poverty of a Kentucky coal-mining town in the late '40s. Her chances for a future that is anything but bleak seem to hover somewhere between slim and none, until she discovers music. When she sings, Glenda finds a spirit greater than anything she has ever known, and it's her musical talent that eventually helps her create possibilities for herself. This is not, however, a simple rags-to-riches tale, for Glenda's life is considerably more complex than that.

Watts does an exceptional job suggesting an Appalachian dialect — she uses enough examples to remind us of Glenda's origins, but not so many that it becomes intrusive. Glenda's discovery of the joys of lesbians is especially well-depicted. Watts creates an extraordinary character in Glenda, and through her musings we meet the others who figure in her remarkable life. I found myself wishing that I could meet Glenda and her friends, or at least hear them sing.

Using a fine first-person narrative, Watts recounts the history of the early days of rock 'n' roll and its country cousin, rockabilly, as well as the tales of the men and women who found their souls in that music. Glenda Mooney is a character you will remember for a long time, and with great fondness. ▼



Suds and duds

by Deborah Peifer

Lady Be Good by Barbara Grier and Christine Cassidy; Naiad, \$14.95

Owing to the excellence of Naiad's previous collections of short fiction, I opened *Lady Be Good* with real anticipation. Although there are several good stories in this edition, there are, alas, a lot of duds as well. Laura Adams' "Lay Lady Lay" will amuse anyone who writes for a living. Karin Kallmaker's "Looking Out on the Morning Rain" is a wonderfully constructed chase around San Francisco, as a freelance photographer searches for a bit of color in an otherwise gray winter day. But many of the stories have an incomplete feel, as if they were chapters from a work-in-progress rather than stories complete in themselves. *Lady Be Good* is, at best, not too bad, but hardly such stuff as readerly dreams are made of. ▼

Song of India

by Deborah Peifer

Cloud 9 Affair by Katherine E. Kreuter; Rising Tide, \$11.99

I am not as a rule terribly enthralled by novels that include great masses of geographic description, but *Cloud 9 Affair* is a happy exception. Katherine E. Kreuter makes India one of her characters, and the result is fascinating.

Paige Taylor is a private investigator who specializes in exotic locales. When the daughter of a powerful and wealthy man disappears on what seems to be another quest for spiritual enlighten-

ment, or good drugs, Paige is hired to search the Indian subcontinent for the missing woman. But is she missing? Or just traveling? And what is her father's real motivation for the search?

Kreuter creates complex but believable situations for her sleuth, and her use of scenery is compelling and appropriate. Interesting characters and a satisfying denouement make *Cloud 9 Affair* an enjoyable read. ▼

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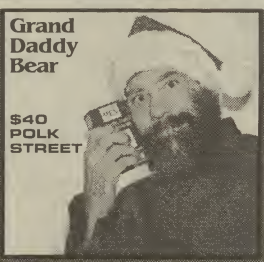
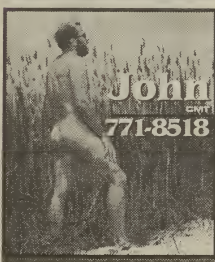
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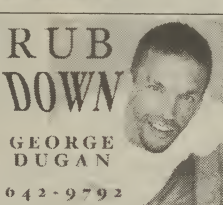


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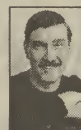
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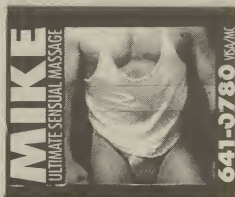
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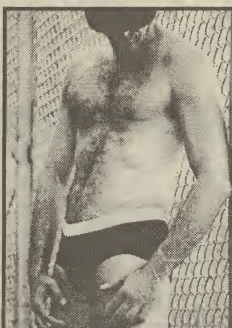
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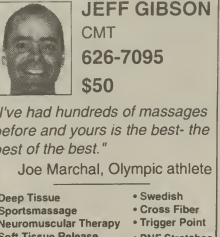


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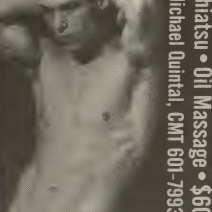
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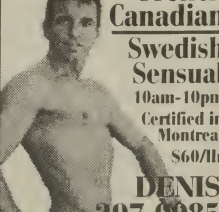
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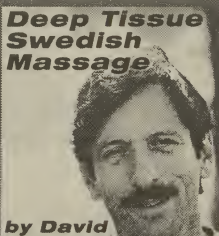
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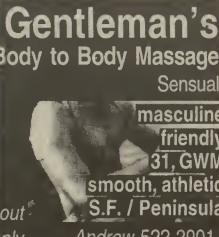


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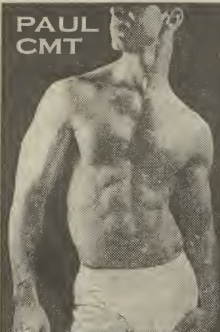
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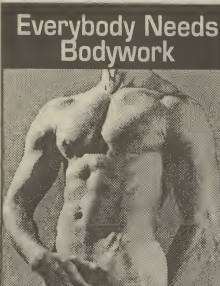
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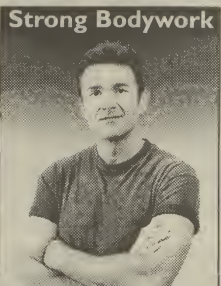
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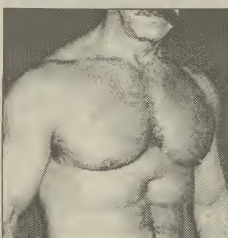
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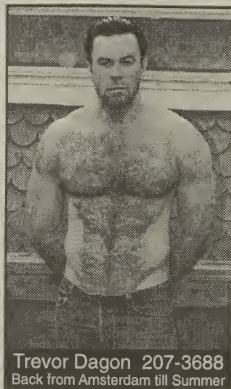
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PERSONALS

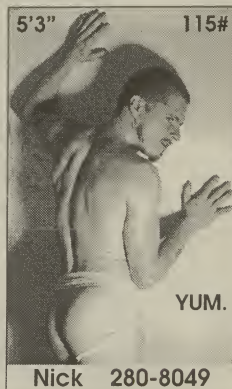
MODELS/ESCORTS



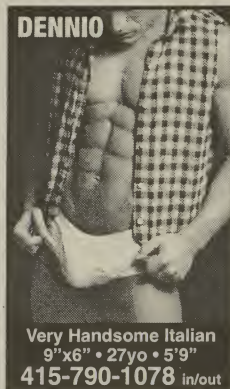
KEVIN
PGR•790•1545



Trevor Dagon 207-3688
Back from Amsterdam till Summer



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YUM.
Nick 280-8049



DENNIO
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KEER
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As seen in Kink Videos & Honcho



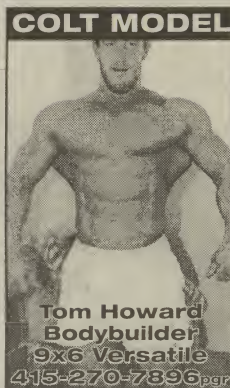
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9
x
6
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LUKE STEELE
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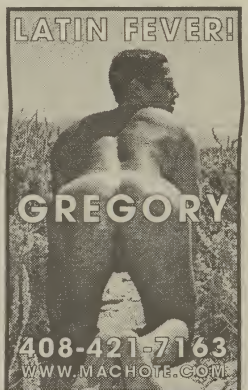
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CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

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Signature _____
Name _____

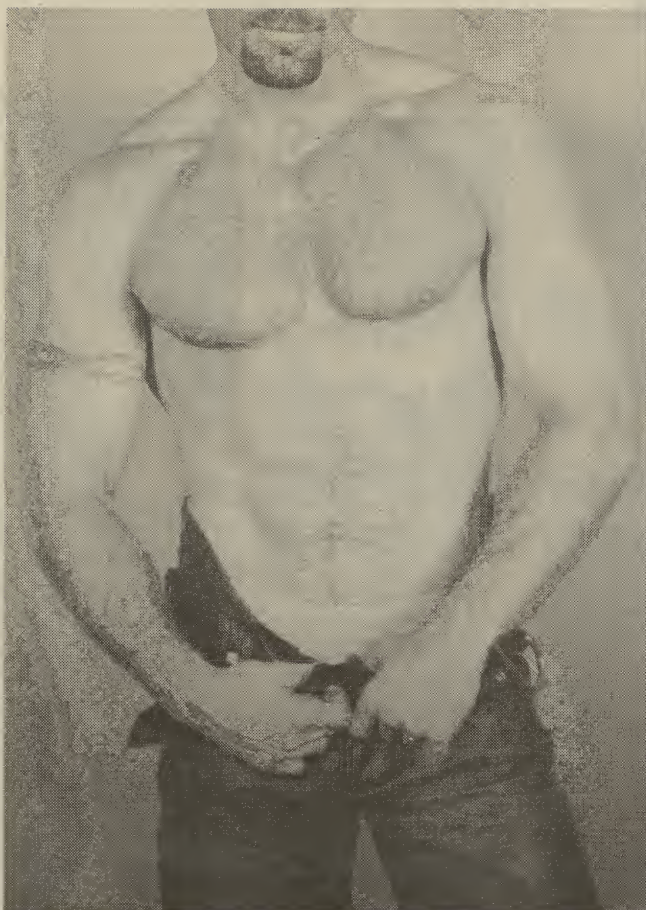
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